Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 238 | MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

POLL RESULTS

Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Yes-**36**

No-**46**

Sunday, August 24, 2008

INSIDE

Running Mate Choice

Barack Obama introduced Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware on Saturday as "a leader ready to step in and be president," and the newly named running mate quickly converted his debut on the Democratic ticket into a slashing attack on Republican John McCain.

Nation...Page 16

Swipe At McCain

Even at 50, the queen of pop just can't stop courting controversy. As Madonna kicked off her international "Sticky and Sweet" tour Saturday night, she took a none-too subtle swipe at the presumptive Republican nominee for U.S. president.

Life & Style...Page 21

Tinian eyes agricultural renaissance. **PAGE 2**

Tina calls for Tim's resignation; Floor Leader says 'hold on' **PAGE 5**

Praise, calls for talks after Bush marine monument proposal

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

After reports President Bush is poised to seek feedback from federal agencies on a bid to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI's northern waters, supporters of the plan welcomed the news yet some opponents are calling for intergovernmental talks before the proposal moves forward.

"It's a good day," Angelo Villagomez, local coordinator for the Pew Charitable Trust's campaign to rally support for the monument, said Sunday

See PRAISE on Page 4

ON FEDERALIZATION LAW'S IMPLEMENTATION CONCERNS

DOI assures rapid interagency agreements

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has assured CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio that his office is fully aware of the need for rapid interagency agreements with respect to the implementation of federalization law.

Kempthorne

Office of Insular Affairs acting

See DOI on Page 4

AP

Steps that once led to a home are that are all that is left of the residence as new construction goes on in the background in the Lower 9th Ward in New Orleans Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

New Orleans repeating deadly levee blunders

By **CAIN BURDEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Signs are emerging that history is repeating itself in the Big Easy, still healing from Katrina: People have forgotten a lesson from four decades ago and believe once again that the federal government is constructing a levee system they can prosper behind.

In a yearlong review of levee work here, The Associated Press has tracked a pattern of public misperception, political jockeying and legal fighting,

See NEW on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Public School System anticipates a shortage of buses this coming school year.

Lack of PSS buses a challenge for some parents

By **KRISTI EATON**
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a lack of buses in the Public School System, some parents will have the extra burden of finding a way for their children to get to school this year.

Students at Dandan Elementary, William S. Reyes Elementary, and Koblerville Elementary will have to find their own transportation. This is the second

See LACK on Page 4

Local

Tinian eyes agricultural renaissance

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

SPECIAL Report

TINIAN—Long known as the bread basket of the CNMI, the island of Tinian is now poised to see its ranches and farms sprouting new produce and new economic opportunities with several major efforts to lay the groundwork for an agricultural renaissance here now in development.

Farming and ranching on Tinian dates back to its colonial past. Agricultural production here, however, has diminished in recent years for lack of a viable market to sell meat and produce, William Cing, an advisor to Mayor Jose San Nicolas, said in an interview last week.

To revive Tinian's agricultural economy, the mayor's office has proposed to construct a new market complex where local growers, ranchers, and fishermen can sell the produce they raise and earn additional money by having them processed into so-called "value added" items. Last month, the mayor's staff met with Marianas Public Land Trust officials in a bid to gain a $1.3-million loan for the project.

"We're trying to entice people to come back to farming, ranching and fishing," Cing said. "The whole idea is to give them this public place where they can sell what they have raised themselves."

Tourists in search of local goods, the pending military buildup in the region and the expanding consumer interest in organically grown foods, Cing added, could ensure a sustainable market for Tinian's fishermen and agribusinesses.

Plans for the new market include a mobile slaughterhouse compliant with U.S. Department of Agriculture standards that Cing said would let Tinian ranchers obtain a federal approval to sell their meet in stores.

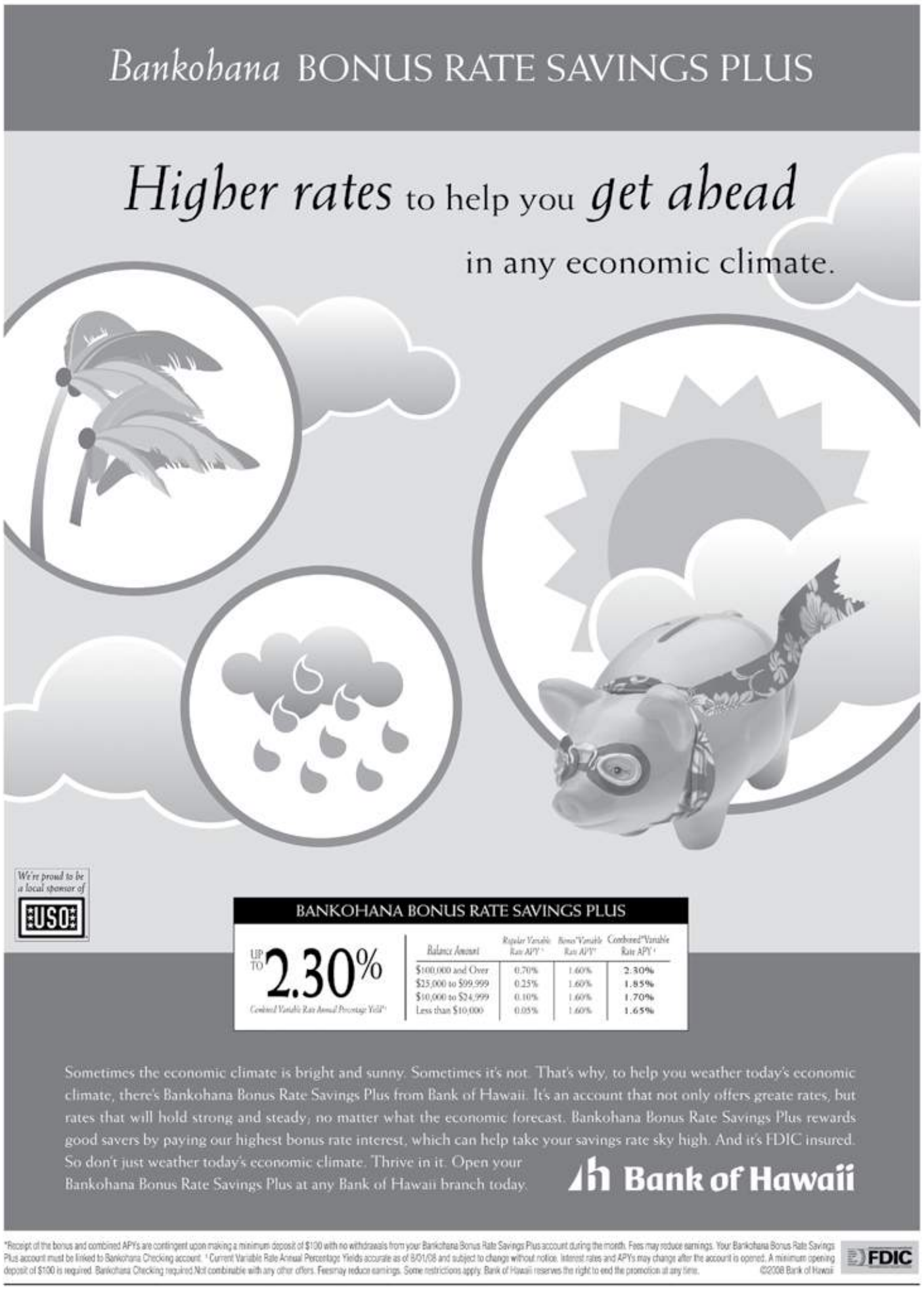
The proposal also calls for processing equipment to produce "value added" items at the market, such as smoked meats, candies or jams that have a long shelf life and can fetch higher prices.

"There is a lot you can do with some of the local products," Cing said. "The equipment is out there but we're not taking advantage of it."

Mayoral staff have examined an old power plant, a vacant dairy farm and a swath of public property as prospective sites for the new market, he added, yet any progress will depend on funding for the project.

In addition to the proposed market, local people on Tinian have organized to work together on improving the state of the island's agriculture sector. In recent months, a new group

See TINIAN on Page 4


Bankohana BONUS RATE SAVINGS PLUS
Higher rates to help you get ahead
in any economic climate.
We're proud to be a local sponsor of
USO
BANKOHANA BONUS RATE SAVINGS PLUS
UP TO 2.30%
Combined Variable Rate Annual Percentage Yield*
Balance Amount | Regular Variable Rate APY* | Bonus* Variable Rate APY* | Combined* Variable Rate APY*
$100,000 and Over | 0.70% | 1.60% | 2.30%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.25% | 1.60% | 1.85%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 1.60% | 1.70%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 1.60% | 1.65%
Sometimes the economic climate is bright and sunny. Sometimes it's not. That's why, to help you weather today's economic climate, there's Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus from Bank of Hawaii. It's an account that not only offers greate rates, but rates that will hold strong and steady, no matter what the economic forecast. Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus rewards good savers by paying our highest bonus rate interest, which can help take your savings rate sky high. And it's FDIC insured.
So don't just weather today's economic climate. Thrive in it. Open your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus at any Bank of Hawaii branch today.
Bank of Hawaii
*Receipt of the bonus and combined APYs are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals from your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to Bankohana Checking account. † Current Variable Rate Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 8/01/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. A minimum opening deposit of $100 is required. Bankohana Checking required. Not combinable with any other offers. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply. Bank of Hawaii reserves the right to end the promotion at any time.
©2008 Bank of Hawaii
FDIC

USS *Stethem* officers, AMMA directors join governor at 30th birthday of AMP

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A cadet from Saipan Southern High School carries the NMI colors, which was the last one among the different state flags and from the other U.S. territories to be on stage at the Court of Honor during the wreath laying ceremony of the 30th anniversary of the American Memorial Park Saturday.

BY NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officers of the visiting USS *Stethem,* led by its commanding officer Shan Byrne, as well as Board of Directors of the Arizona Memorial Museum Association joined CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the National Park Service at Saturday's wreath laying ceremony for the 30th anniversary celebration of the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

The ceremonies began with the procession of the state and territory flags by the Saipan Southern High School and Kagman HS cadets followed by the posting of colors.

VFW Chaplain Milton Coleman led the invocation before NPS Superintendent Sarah Breachbaum and Fitial game inspiring messages.

Breachbaum thanked some individuals as well as the people of CNMI who were responsible for the continued improvement of the park.

She acknowledged Frank Cepeda for his donation of the flags for the procession, Coleman's effort, Master Sergeant Berg from the Kagman HS, Sergeant Major Juaquine Kioshi of the JROTC Program of Saipan Southern HS, Ralfeaela Percy for civilian support and others.

Fitial was joined by Byrne, Coleman, and Navy officer Don Williams during the wreath-laying.

Breachbaum also acknowledged the presence of members of the AMMA led by its president Tom Shaw. The others were Capt. George Sullivan (USN Ret.), Capt. Patricia Lucas (USN Ret.) and Alby Saunders (Board member).

Shaw was pleased that AMMA has been a part of the celebration and said they are honored to be able to help in commemorating the 30 years of the park.

He said this is a tribute to the men who fought during the battle of Marianas and the Philippines Sea.

Shaw said some 5,000 sailors, Marines, and Army personnel who fought and perished.

He said that AMMA had an agreement with three national parks in the Pacific particularly in Hawaii, Guam, and CNMI, to sell books and hold activities for fundraising that will ultimately goes to the parks in terms of educational programs.

Shaw explained that it is through educational program the only way for the young generation to know what happened some 60 years ago.

Afternoon activities included film showing, bead making, art demonstration, presentation of cake, and other activities that drew children and grandchildren of war veterans and tourists alike.

Fitial withdraws Inos nomination

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has withdrawn his nomination of attorney Perry Inos as a Superior Court judge.

Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that Fitial withdrew the nomination of Inos before Sen. Paul Manglona could file the report being prepared by the Senate Committees on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, and Fiscal Affairs.

"This way, the governor could still re-appoint him (Inos)," said Pangelinan who is a member of EAGI and chair of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

The nomination of Inos was among the issues discussed during Friday's Senate session.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday confirmed that the governor withdrew Inos' nomination on Friday.

"I think the governor intends to submit [the nomination] at a later date. I think there are some technical reasons. I don't know the exact reasons," Reyes said.

The press secretary said he does not know as to when Fitial would resubmit to the Senate the nomination of Inos to the bench.

A draft report of EAGI and Fiscal Affairs proposed to return with no action the appointment of the Rota lawyer in order for the government save money in light of the declining courts' caseload and the dwindling CNMI revenues.

The draft report likewise asked the Legislature and the CNMI people for a re-examination of the structural make-up of the Superior Court considering the significant reduction of cases and the government revenues.

The report, however, pointed out that the position of the committees is that Inos is still qualified to be appointed again in the future should a provision in the NMI Constitution not be modified and an assessment of the government's general fund resources allows for the funding of the fifth judge.

Fitial appointed Inos on June 19, 2008, as judge following the resignation of Juan T. Lizama.

EAGI has yet to examine Inos's submissions, education, credential, community involvements, business experiences, financial statements, or the public's concerns.

The CNMI Constitution requires that the Superior Court consist of five judges.

At present, there are four judges in the Superior Court. Each associate judge currently earns a base yearly salary of $120,000. This number does not include retirement

See FITIAL on Next Page

FOR
- China Visa
- Chinese Passport Renewal

Please contact
CNMI Consulting Services
Telephone No. 287-7823

HARDT EYE CLINIC
Serving you for over 15 years

DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

SERVICES OFFERED:
• New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
• Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
• Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
• Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.
Walk-ins are Welcome!
We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare. Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)
We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express
Please call us now at 235-2030
We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.

Customers First TRIPLE J
USED CARS
Quality, Reconditioned Vehicles Are Priced To Move!
Meet our Sales Team...
Ben Lizama · Merci Sablan · Bermanis Terry · Felix Palacios · Bobby Kwon
Many Models To Choose From!
Financing Available!

Manager's Special
2000 Nissan Maxima
Fully reconditioned, All Power, AT, Sunroof $8,995

2002 Ford Mustang
Low Miles, AT, Convertible. $8,995

2006 Hyundai Sonata
4-cylinder, AT, Good on Gas! $11,995

2006 Mazda 3i
Low Miles, 4-cyl, AT, Great on Gas! $12,995

2001 Mazda Miata
Sporty, 4-cyl, AT, Great on Gas! $12,995

2005 Mazda 3s Hatchback
4-cylinder, AT, Great on Gas! $12,995

2005 Mazda 3s
Low Miles, AT, 4-cyl. Great on Gas! $13,995

2005 Mazda 6i
Low Miles, AT, 4-cylinder. $13,995

2005 Mazda B2300 SE
Low Miles, MT, 4-cylinder. $14,995

2006 Suzuki XL-7
Low Miles, 7-Seater, Great Price! $16,995

2004 Mazda RX-8
Low Miles, MT, Leather, Loaded! $18,995

2007 Mazda CX-7 GT
Low Miles, AWD, Leather, Loaded! $26,995

2005 Volvo XC90 T6
7-Seater, AWD Leather, Loaded! $26,995

TRIPLE J MOTORS Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm Tel: 234-7133 • Fax: 234-3052 • Beach Rd, Chalan LauLau
TRIPLE J CAR MART Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm • Sat: 8am-2pm Tel: 235-5065/66 • Fax: 288-7930 • Middle Rd, Chalan Kiya

First Annual
Business Forum
"Partnering for the Future"

World Resort Royal Taga Hall
Thursday August 28, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30pm

Topics:
• U.S. Public Law 110-229
• Immigration through the Transition Period
• Military Build up
• Local Opportunities
• Aquaculture and Agriculture Opportunities
• CNMI's Plan

To register, please send your name, contact information, address, and company/agency/organization name to cnmibizz@gmail.com or call: 664-3018

Registration is limited

Sponsors:
Department of Commerce and
Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA)

NEW

From Page 1

along with economic and engineering miscalculations since Katrina, that threaten to make New Orleans the scene of another devastating flood.

Dozens of interviews with engineers, historians, policymakers and flood zone residents confirmed many have not learned from public policy mistakes made after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, which set the stage for Katrina; many mistakes are being repeated.

"People forget, but they cannot afford to forget," said Windell Curole, a Louisiana hurricane and levee expert. "If you believe you can't flood, that's when you increase the risk of flooding. In New Orleans, I don't think they talk about the risk."

Tyrone Marshall, a 48-year-old bread vendor, is one person who doesn't believe he's going to flood again.

"They've heightened the levees. They're raised up. It makes me feel safe," he said as he toiled outside his home in hard-hit Gentilly, a formerly flooded property refashioned into a California-style bungalow.

Geneva Stanford, a 76-year-old health care worker, is a believer, too. She lives in a trim and tidy prefabricated house in the Lower 9th Ward, 200 feet from a rebuilt floodwall that Katrina broke.

"This wall here wasn't there when we had the flood," Stanford said, radiant in a bright kanga-style dress. "When I look at it now, I say maybe if we had had it up it there then, maybe we wouldn't have flooded."

They're not alone. A recent University of New Orleans survey of residents found concern about levee safety was dropping off the list of top worries, replaced by crime, incompetent leadership and corruption.

This sense of security, though, may be dangerously naive.

For the foreseeable future, New Orleans will be protected by levees unable to protect against another storm like Katrina.

When and if the Army Corps of Engineers finishes $14.8 billion in post-Katrina work, the city will have limited protection—what are defined as 100-year levees.

This does not mean they'd stand up to storms for a century. Under the 100-year standard, in fact, experts say that every house being rebuilt in New Orleans has a 26 percent chance of being flooded again over a 30-year mortgage; and every child born in New Orleans would have nearly a 60 percent chance of seeing a major flood in his or her life.

"It's not exactly great protection," said John Barry, the author of "Rising Tide," a book New Orleans college students read to learn about the corps' efforts to tame the Mississippi.

As a rule, any levee building makes people feel good in this unsettling landscape where the Gulf of Mexico can be seen gleaming from the top floors of skyscrapers and where the ubiquitous dynamics of a sinking and eroding river delta ripple through every aspect of life.

Levees tend to get built after devastating hurricanes: It's happening now and it happened after Betsy struck and flooded much of the same low ground that Katrina invaded.

"We did go in and did a whole bunch of levee work right after Betsy," said Philip Ciaccio, a New Orleans appellate judge and longtime former politician from eastern New Orleans, a reclaimed swamp transformed into the Big Easy's version of the American suburban dream.

Between Betsy and Katrina, about 22,000 homes were constructed in eastern New Orleans out of an abundance of confidence.

"We were under the illusion that what we had done would prevent another Betsy from flooding the area," Ciaccio said. "Hopefully the experts know what they're doing this time."

The corps says its work is making the city safer, but there are serious doubts.

At every step in the scramble to correct the engineering breakdowns of Katrina, independent experts have questioned the ability of the corps, an agency that has accumulated ever more power over the fate of New Orleans, to do the right job.

On the road to recovery, the agency has installed faulty drainage pumps, used outdated measurements, issued incorrect data, unearthed critical flaws, made conflicting statements about flood risk and flunked reviews by the National Research Council.

At the same time, the corps has run into funding problems, lawsuits, a tangle of local interests and engineering difficulties—all of which has led to delays in getting the promised work done.

An initial September 2010 target to complete the $14.8 billion in post-Katrina work has slipped to mid-2011. Then last September, an Army audit found 84 percent of work behind schedule because of engineering complexities, environmental provisos and real estate transactions. The report added that costs would likely soar.

A more recent analysis shows the start of 84 of 156 projects was delayed—15 of them by six months or more. Meanwhile, a critical analysis of what it would take to build even stronger protection—500-year-type levees—was supposed to be done last December but remains unfinished.

Another opportunity for setbacks: The corps says it will need more than 100 million cubic yards of clay and dirt to build up levees—enough to fill the Louisiana Superdome 20 times.

Also on the corps' drawing board are gigantic pumps capable of pushing more than 20,000 cubic feet of water per second. For comparison, the biggest pumps in New Orleans move about 6,000 cfs every second and they're among the most impressive in the nation.

FITIAL

From Page 3

fund obligations.

Each chamber reportedly consists of at least two employees: a clerk and a law clerk, each of which are entitled to base salaries as well as retirement obligations.

Law clerks are normally hired from outside the CNMI and traditionally employing them includes costs for moving personal belongings and a house rental allowance for the duration of their stay.

DOI

From Page 1

deputy assistant secretary Doug Domenech, on behalf of Kemphthorne, pointed out in his letter to Tenorio that Domenech is aware and shares the concern regarding initiation of the interagency agreement process as mandated by the law.

"The issue of interagency agreements is being discussed with officials in the four Federal agencies," Domenech said.

Tenorio earlier requested the federal agencies to provide immediate interagency agreements between the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security, Labor, and Interior to process and coordinate decisions relating to the implementation of Public Law 110-229 (federalization law).

In a press statement yesterday, Tenorio said in his earlier letters to four federal agencies he pointed out that not only such agreements mandatory but they are to be utilized to develop procedures to ensure that CNMI employers have access to adequate labor.

The NMI's Washington representative also underscored the importance for the tourists, students, retirees, and other visitors to have access to the Commonwealth without necessary delay or impediment.

He noted the intent of U.S. Congress to provide the CNMI with "as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities."

Tenorio also recommended that the NMI governor be provided a significant role in the agreements.

"It is important that the Governor play a vital role in the implementation of this law, and not just during the development of the regulations but also during the entire transition period," Tenorio said.

On Kempthorne's response to his concerns, he said it is very encouraging to know that CNMI's partners in the various federal agencies are cognizant of the Commonwealth's unique needs and are actively discussing agreements aimed at implementing the positive reforms and economic diversification mandated by Public Law 110-229.

"This type of prompt active cooperation further illustrates the commitment of the Federal Government to continue working with all of us to ensure a smooth transition to a federal system in keeping with the responsibilities of the CNMI and the U.S. as defined in the Covenant," Tenorio added.

LACK

From Page 1

year the three schools are without bus service.

Koblerville resident Ron Sablan, who has a daughter starting school this year, said many children who walk to school are put into a dangerous situation.

"Crossing the big road. There are car accidents, Anything can happen," he said.

The heat could also affect their health, he added.

"It's very hot, very dry, and they have to walk back and forth," he said.

Sablan said many Koblerville parents who do want to drive their kids to school are unable to.

"A lot of families over here don't have transportation," he said.

Sablan's niece attended the Head Start program in San Antonio last year, but because there was no transportation, his sister often sat and waited the whole day for her daughter to finish school, he said.

But Fuanny Ananstacio, also a Koblerville resident, said it has not been a problem for his son, Bradley, to get to school. Ananstacio drives Bradley, 11, to school about twice a week and when it's raining, he said.

If his father doesn't drive him to school, Bradley said he often rides his bike and it only takes him a few minutes.

Dandan elementary student Larry Jay Sebaklim, 10, said his mom picks him up from school but when she must work late, he has to walk home. It's not hard, he added.

Larry Jay's sister, Daisy Aldan, said their mom does sometimes worry about the cars when he walks to and from school.

PSS bus team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said the district will begin the year with 11 buses, four less than the start of last school year. PSS bought five additional buses, and they should be ready to use on or by Nov. 30.

Pangelinan said he hopes to offer service to the three elementary schools by December or January. The PSS bus schedule for the upcoming school year should be ready Monday.

PRAISE

From Page 1

after hearing the reports.

News the northern waters will see a federal assessment evaluating them as a potential monument, Villagomez noted, has brought a wave positive international media attention to the CNMI that will bolster its image as an eco-tourism destination.

"Whether or not we're chosen as the site for the monument, we're getting some great press for the CNMI," he said, noting the monument was the No. 3 story on CNN.com that day. "The world is watching."

The role of the Pew trust—a key proponent of plan—in lobbying for the monument will diminish somewhat now that the White House is preparing to take up an assessment of the region, he added, yet its staff will continue to rally public support.

"It's a federal proposal now," he said. "It's great that the process is about to begin."

The monument plan has proven highly controversial in the CNMI, however, with opponents crying foul over prohibitions it would impose on any future mining or fishing within its boundaries. Federal restrictions in the northern islands, critics say, would amount to an intrusion on the CNMI's autonomy.

Before the proposal can move forward, Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) said, federal authorities must negotiate with the local government under the terms of the CNMI's Covenant.

"I am not sure if President Bush and his cabinet understand the Covenant," Torres said in an interview. "They will have to call the CNMI to the negotiating table."

The Covenant, he added, requires talks before any changes to its terms are made, including those preserving its waters.

"Before anyone pops the champagne bottles, they had better come to the CNMI and start knocking on doors," he said. "This is going to be a Covenant issue. It's not just a federal issue."

According to the *Associated Press*, Bush's proposal on the monument could be unveiled as early as today. The assessment—conducted by the departments of Interior, Defense and Commerce, in addition to the White House Council on Environmental Quality—could take up to two months to complete, *AP* said.

In a statement issued by Friends of the Marine Monument, a newly organized group supporting the proposal, Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) said local officials and the community are eager to learn more about it.

"I am pleased to learn that President Bush has agreed to send representatives to the CNMI to discuss the marine monument proposal with us," Sablan said. "I am sure we will receive them hospitably, and with open minds. I am deeply interested in exploring all opportunities to protect our unique marine resources for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Rose Atoll in the waters near American Samoa and the Line Islands in the central Pacific are competing with the CNMI's northern islands as potential marine monument sites.

TINIAN

From Page 2

has formed here, the Tinian Farmers, Ranchers and Fishermen Association, to represent the collective interests of local food producers. The association is now crafting its bylaws and planning a survey of its members.

"Almost everybody here was raised on farms," said Eddie Quichocho, the association's president. "We have more ranchers on Tinian than on any of the other islands."

Meanwhile, the future of Tinian's agribusiness is emerging in research Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (NMC-CREES) is conducting on the island aimed at uncovering what varieties of fruits and vegetable can best grow here and resist common tropical plant diseases.

On a green plot tucked behind NMC's Tinian campus, agricultural researcher Lawrence Duponcheel and his colleagues last year began raising orange trees to test various strains' abilities to survive on the island. Tropical diseases, Duponcheel said, commonly kill citrus trees in the South Pacific and Asia. Over the next several years, researchers will monitor the progress of the trees—now tall saplings—and conduct tests.

"We want to determine which varieties are suitable to our climate, which will be resistant to diseases and which will deliver a high quality product," said Duponcheel, adding the research will likely help local farmers select the best citrus crops to grow and aid efforts to ensure the quality of local seeds is controlled.

"We're also hoping to find out, almost more importantly, which strains don't work. It's important to find out which ones do well—we're guaranteed that some will probably do well—but it's important to know which definitely do not do well and which you don't want to grow."

Mangoes, papayas, and a host of other fruits could see the same type of research on Tinian in the near future, he added, giving farmers an added advantage.

Tina calls for Tim's resignation; Floor Leader says 'hold on'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina Sablan on Friday called for the resignation of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and appealed to House members to take a stand.

But Floor Leader Joseph Norita Camacho disagreed. He said lawmakers should "hold on" and not prejudge Villagomez.

During the session, Sablan pointed out that the indictment of Villagomez and three others for public corruption has caused a very serious blow to public confidence in the CNMI government.

"As representatives of our people we should take a stand and not so tentative in our responses to questions about this issue. And that we should say yes he should resign, he should step down from his position," Sablan said.

Sablan, who is called the "Lone Ranger" in the House for standing alone in opposing to passage of many legislations, said she understands that people should presume the lieutenant governor innocent until proven guilty.

"But even if he is ultimately acquitted, the fact that we have such a high ranking public official, a lieutenant governor, who previous to that was a congressman and during his term as congressman he was chairman of public utilities committee and before that he was executive director of CUC. And now he is being indicted for public corruption at CUC and in the middle of this humungous crisis we are facing with our utilities, I see no other possibility except that he should step down," she said.

Sablan

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after the session that she believes that lawmakers would do right to the people and to their constituents "to go ahead and take that stand."

Responding to Sablan's statement in the session, Camacho said he understands the process because he already tried both—being prosecutor and defense's counsel.

Camacho

Camacho said the lawmakers should allow the legal process to move forward.

"We should be mindful not to prejudge people because I have seen it many times where the CNMI prosecutor makes mistakes, where federal prosecutor makes mistakes. And that's what the jury is for," he said.

The Floor Leader asked what if Villagomez is acquitted.

"What do we say then? I'm sorry that I said that you should resign when lo and behold you are found innocent," Camacho said.

As to the issue of impeachment, Camacho asked his colleagues anew to be mindful that just because they don't like the governor or lieutenant governor or that the people disagree with their policy, are not grounds for impeachment.

"I've been here for eight months. I have never said I do not want to work with the administration," he said.

The Floor Leader said if somebody can show grounds or real evidence that there are reasons to impeach a person, then he would support it.

"But we are not there yet! And I'm sorry letters to the editors are not evidence," Camacho said.

Rep. Stanley Torres earlier said Villagomez should at least take a leave of absence if he is not resigning while the case is pending or investigation is ongoing.

Torres also stated that he is not aware of anyone from the Legislature pushing for impeachment.

Manglona says Tinian has excess power generators, Guam offers help

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul Manglona has asked why the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not taking the excess power generators from Tinian as he also disclosed that Guam is offering hands to assist NMI of its power crisis.

During Friday's session at the Senate chamber, Manglona said Tinian has 10 megawatts of excess capacity from generators that are owned by CUC through the build-operate transfer contract with Telesource.

"I don't understand why we cannot bring that to Saipan so that we can have at least Aggreko 15 megawatts, PMIC 14 megawatts and now the Tinian generators at 10 megawatts or for a total 39 megawatts solid reliable power on Saipan," he said.

The Rota senator said these daily outages on the island should be stopped.

Manglona

"We live on Dandan at three to six hours of outages a night is just unreasonable," he pointed out.

Manglona said based on his conversation with the company on Tinian, they can bring the generators for free, set them up at any locations where CUC wants them to put.

"This is not the first time that I brought this up. Four months ago I brought this up," he said.

Manglona also stated that he received a call from the acting governor of Guam, extending assistance regarding power situation.

He said he already informed CUC executive director Tony Muna about Guam's offer to help.

"They are willing to provide spare parts and bring workers here," the senator said.

"They are ready to assist their neighbor island. We have to do everything as businesses are shutting down. Even if it means we go to Guam and asking for help. Sometimes they have typhoons we sent our workers there also. So it is just one way of working as neighbors," he added.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-OPA-093
Submission/Opening Date: September 11, 2008 • Time: 11:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF A NETWORK SERVER FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"

Copies of the specification of work may be picked-up at the office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the ITB if preference is claimed.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
Acting, Public Auditor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP08-OPA-089
Submission Date: September 11, 2008 • Time: 4:00 p.m.

"TO PERFORM A SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, 2009 AND 2010"

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the office of the Director of Procurement and supply office in lowerbase during regular working hours. Inquiries may be directed to Rosauro C. Zapanta, Audit Manager, at the OPA (670) 322-6481/6482 or by fax at (670) 322-7812.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
Acting, Public Auditor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE!!!
Finish High School
ESL/GED/AS

New students MUST make an appointment at the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Office in Building "G" to take the free placement test

Starting August 21, 2008 1-5 pm in Room K-1 at NMC.

Ongoing/Returning Student Registration:
September 2-3, 2008 10 am to 6 pm in ABE Office.

New Student Registration:
September 4-5, 2008 10 am to 6 pm in ABE Office.

Late Registration:
September 8-9, 2008 8am to 5 pm in ABE Office.

Student Orientation:
September 16, 2008 5-6:30 pm in D-1

NOTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Adult Basic Education Program

Placement Test:	August 21-22, 2008	Th-F	01:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Late Placement Test:	August 25-29, 2008	M-Th	08:30-12:30 PM	K-1
Registration for Returning Students:	September 2-3, 2008	TW	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Registration for New Students:	September 4-5 , 2008	ThF	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Late Registration:	September 8-9, 2008	MT	08:00-05:00 PM	ABE
CASAS Appraisal Test	September 10-11, 2008	WTh	09:00-10:00 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:00 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:00 PM	K-1
CASAS Pre-Test	September 12 & 15, 2008	FM	09:00-10:30 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:30 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:30 PM	K-1
Student Orientation:	September 16, 2008	T	05:00-06:30 PM	D-1
CASAS Make-Up Tests	September 16, 2008	T	08:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Add/Drop for Students:	September 17-26, 2008		08:00-05:00 PM	ABE

First Day of Instruction:	MWF Classes	September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)
	TTh Classes	September 18, 2008 (Thursday)
	Saturday Classes	September 20, 2008
	Sunday Classes	September 21, 2008
Last Day of Instruction:	December 12, 2008	

This schedule is subject to change. For more information please contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723 or 1724

This advertisement was paid for from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Looking for an Eye Clinic?
"Choose a Regional Leader"

Marianas Eye Institute

Come see the clinic that has been recognized by Retinal Physician magazine as "one of the best- equipped in Asia-Pacific"

Come see our doctors who have received national recognition

From the simple to the complex, we treat your eye problems.

Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care

David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease
Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
Complex Eye Disease

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox
We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos', and more.
If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

San Nicolas: Labor's policies 'are sound'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Responding to a House probe into the CNMI Department of Labor's controversial policies on alien workers, Labor Sec. Gil San Nicolas said the department's approach is "sound" and "fair" despite the extensive list of concerns two lawmakers sent him earlier this month.

Reps. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) and Edward Salas (R-Saipan) in an Aug. 8 letter to Labor raised a host of issues linked to the department's policies, such as problems with administrative orders that go unpaid, fears that officials have violated workers' due process rights and allegations Deputy Sec. Cinta Kaipat has a bias against foreigners.

In an Aug. 22 letter, San Nicolas addressed each subject the lawmakers put forth, saying Labor's practices comply with the law and that the department is doing its duty.

"I believe that the department's policies and procedures are sound, consistent with applicable law, fair to all parties, and of benefit to the community," San Nicolas wrote.

A key point in the House probe was a so-called "policy shift" the lawmakers cited concerning Labor's enforcement of unpaid administrative orders—departmental rulings which often require employers to pay back wages or other settlements. Labor has recently begun sending workers with unpaid orders to small claims court rather than deal with them directly, a change Sablan and Salas said suggests it is unable or unwilling to take enforcement action.

However, San Nicolas said Labor's recent policy change is in accordance with the law and more effective when it comes to gaining payments for workers.

"Enforcement of an order is at the option of the party to whom an award has been made," he writes. "There is no department enforcement mechanism that automatically comes into operation when an award has been issued."

The courts have more power to enforce administrative orders than Labor, he adds, as they can seize assets or threaten incarceration if employers refuse to pay the debts they owe.

Sablan and Salas had also pointed to instances where they say Labor's practices fail to give workers due process. For example, they questioned in their initial letter why it is that when workers appeal the department's decisions, the officer who first heard the case often reviews those appeals.

Yet this is a common practice in the CNMI's court system, San Nicolas said, and in other courts throughout the United States. Moreover, any order from a remand hearing can also be appealed to the secretary or taken to court.

Moreover, the letter answers allegations that Deputy Labor Sec. Cinta Kaipat harbors a bias against alien workers. Sablan and Salas had cited several statements by Kaipat that they say suggested a pattern of prejudice. These charges, San Nicolas said, are untrue.

It is "completely unjustified to charge the Deputy Secretary with any kind of bias in the performance of her duties and even more specifically with a bias against foreign national workers," he wrote. "She does her job in a way that is fair to all concerned; but even [Sablan and Salas] cannot completely ignore the fact even while the department strives to diligently enforce the law, there are some individuals who try to circumvent the law."

To back this assertion, San Nicolas pointed to a recent news report on two people who recently pleaded guilty in the CNMI to employing an illegal alien worker in a bid to extend the worker's stay.

"There is absolutely nothing in the record of appeals to the Secretary or appeals to the courts to suggest anything other than a fair and impartial adjudication process free of any bias," he added.

Senate overrides Fitial's veto on bill for DPL deputy secretary

The Senate has overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's rejection on legislation that proposes to establish a deputy secretary for the Department of Public Lands on Rota, Tinian, and Aguiguan.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that on Friday they overrode Fitial's veto on Senate Bill 16-16 that would give the mayors of Rota and Tinian the authority to appoint a deputy secretary for DPL.

"Currently, they have a resident department head. The bill will replace the title of resident department head to deputy secretary," Pangelinan said.

Fitial recently informed Senate President Pete P. Reyes and Speaker Arnold I. Palacios that he disapproved the legislation.

The governor said he believes that the intent of the bill may already be addressed in Public Law 16-8.

"I believe that certain provisions of the bill may conflict with our Constitution and the efficient administration of public lands under the executive branch," the governor said.

According to the legislation, a provision of the NMI Constitution mandates Executive Branch department public services be provided by a resident department head in First and Second Senatorial Districts. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY GIRL
Birthday greetings go out to Mhay Marinay of Inchcape who celebrated her birthday last Friday, Aug. 22.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL AGENCY CASES

August 25, 2008, first notice
September 1, 2006, second notice

EMPLOYEES WHO ARE COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING AGENCY CASES:

Each of the agency cases listed below has been adjudicated by the Administrative Hearing Office or dismissed by the Director of Labor. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office or the Director of Labor. All claims of employees, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the second date of publication of this notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service, personal or otherwise, on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that prior service. The Director of Labor has discretion to dismiss or close any agency case.

CASE NO.	EMPLOYER
07-008-01	Acosta, Carmen and Cabrera, James
07-068-04	Aldan, Olivia B.
07-047-03	Alvarez, Ray
07-045-03	Arizapa, Lucia (deceased)
07-066-04	ASC, Inc. dba Nagoya Star
07-053-03	Atalig, Felipe
07-029-02	Atom's Co., Ltd.
07-043-03	Barasi, Bienvenida C.
07-028-02	Batallones, Renato P. dba Motion Automotive
07-014-01	Cabrera, Edward dba Red Heart Karaoke & Massage
07-100-12	Camacho, Aida A.
07-033-03	Castro, Herman M. and Becky
07-049-03	Cepeda, Maria B.
07-052-03	Ceron Heavy Equipment and Parts
07-061-03	Chang Cheng Int'l Corp. and Dela Cruz, Dolores B.
07-098-12	Commonwealth Garment MFG, Inc.
07-017-02	Conwood Products, Inc.
06-004-01	Dela Rosa, Elinor; Xu, Hong Qin; Chen, Ce; and Hu, Min
07-056-03	Deleon Guerrero, Luis and Evelyn
07-074-06	Duenas, Georgia
07-013-01	Elm's, Inc. dba Town & Country
07-039-03	Emperor Holdings, Ltd.
07-082-07	Evangelista, Juan dba Naked Stallion
07-001-01	FAS Moving & Storage Co.
07-023-02	Fashion Scent International, Inc.
07-026-02	Flores, Derron G.
07-004-01	Four Nine International Co., Ltd.
07-030-02	Fukumuro, Kazumi
07-027-02	Goodwill Investment Corp.
07-065-04	Grace International, Inc.
07-094-12	Greenstone International, Inc.
07-059-03	Hafa Adai Beach Hotel
07-037-03	Hecny Forwarders (Saipan), Inc.
07-087-10	Hotel Nikko
07-048-03	I Mart
07-076-06	Islas Marianas
07-060-03	J & MJ Corporation
07-038-03	J.S. Corporation
07-081-07	Jackson, Leslie
07-063-03	Jasbert, Inc. and Santos, Beth
07-021-02	JC Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

CASE NO.	EMPLOYER
07-090-11	Jin Apparel, Inc.
07-035-03	Jin Joo Corp. dba Boo Boo Office
07-055-03	Jin Yang Corporation
07-024-02	Joshua Generation Int'l Academy
07-058-03	Kevin International Corporation
07-025-02	Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd.
07-089-10	Kyungseung (Saipan), Inc.
07-092-11	L & S Apparel, Inc.
07-086-08	Leung, Hu Min, Han, Yu Mei, Jing, Hou Wei, Dela Rosa, William D. and Elinor G.
07-032-02	Limes, Jackie
07-040-03	Mareham, Isabel
07-010-01	Mediola, Rick
07-083-07	Mei Art, Inc.
07-044-03	Mei Li Saipan, Inc.
07-015-01	Michigan, Inc.
07-097-12	Mirage Saipan Co., Ltd.
07-027-02	Multi-Business Corp.
07-093-11	Neo Fashion, Inc.
07-054-03	New City Int'l Construction
07-018-02	Pacific Guest, Inc.
07-036-03	Pangelinan, Asinta
07-050-03	Perfect Corporation
07-009-01	Peter (Owner of 3 Stalls at Sabalu Market)
07-057-03	POI Aviation
07-095-12	Poong In Saipan
07-067-04	Ranni's Corp. dba Hong Wan Rest.
07-085-08	Sablan Construction
07-064-03	Sablan, Ramon
07-051-03	Sablan, Roland
07-069-05	Sai Xing Corp. dba Tian Market I and Tian Market II
07-091-11	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
07-088-10	Santos, Jesus and Lorylinda
07-019-02	Spring Trading Company
07-042-03	Success Corporation
07-031-02	Tenorio, Keli A.
07-070-05	Top Fashion Corp.
07-041-03	Wah Li, Inc.
07-034-03	Welch's Catering
07-096-12	Winner's Corp.
07-080-07	Xu Lan Corporation
07-002-01	Yong Sang Pacific Corp.
07-062-03	Zheng Rui Brothers Corp.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 08-026

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of **Sign Language and Interpreting Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than September 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan Babauta
Acting P & S Officer

First Buddhist Temple in NMI to rise soon in Marpi

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first Buddhist Temple in the CNMI will soon rise in Marpi and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is already saying that its construction would have a positive effect to the local economy.

"Soon we expect many Buddhist monks and followers to visit Saipan and who knows, a Buddhist celebration may soon be held that will attract hundreds of monks and followers to the island," Tudela said.

The mayor was the guest of honor at last Friday's groundbreaking ceremony led by resident Korean Buddhist monk Gil Jin Lee.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio was also present to witness the occasion.

Project Contractor Yang Youn Geun, president of Sae Woun Corporation, said the temple would be built through donations primarily from the 100 Korean Buddhists living in the CNMI.

The facilities, which would be sitting on a 5,000-square meter lot near the highway and down the cliffs in Marpi, will have one temple, two monk houses, a dining area, toilets, and a parking lot.

The temple will accommodate around 80 to 100 people. Youn Geun said that aside from the Koreans, there is also a large number of Chinese Buddhists on Saipan but he could not estimate how many.

Some 50 members of the NMI Buddhist Temple Association also joined the rain-drenched groundbreaking rites.

Tudela told them that when he first heard of the news that the Buddhist community will soon build the first temple on Saipan, the first impression that came to his mind was that Saipan is progressing economically, socially, and religiously.

He said that Buddhism is not new to the people of Saipan.

He said that Buddhism was first introduced to Saipan prior to World War II during the Japanese administration.

"Occasionally, Buddhists monks and followers from Japan have been coming to Saipan to pay respects for their love ones at the Japanese cemeteries and at the popular tourists sites to remember those who gave their lives during the terrible battle of Saipan," Tudela noted.

He said that when the temple is complete, Buddhists visitors would be more comfortable to pray in a temple setting.

He also thanked the Buddhists for choosing Saipan to build the first temple in the CNMI and is looking forward to establish a lasting relationship between Saipan and the Buddhists community.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela, third from left, leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first Buddhist Temple in the CNMI to rise soon in Marpi. To his right is resident Buddhist Monk Gil Jin Lee.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Fiji denounces expulsion threat by Pacific bloc, saying it would undermine cooperation

ALOFI, Niue (AP)—The Fiji government slammed the Pacific Islands Forum on Friday for its threats to expel the military-run nation over its slow pace in returning to democracy, saying such a move would undermine regional cooperation.

The forum said in a statement Thursday that it would consider suspending Fiji from membership by the end of the year unless its military government can show progress toward holding democratic elections. Forum leaders unanimously condemned Fiji coup leader Commodore Frank Bainimarama's recent reversal of his 2007 pledge to hold elections by March 2009.

It was the first time a member nation has been threatened with suspension in the group's 39-year history, reflecting the exasperation of leaders at Bainimarama's actions.

The Fiji government said in a statement that any move to suspend it from the grouping of 16 South Pacific nations "would have a negative domino effect on the merits of regional cooperation in the Pacific."

In a speech to the nation Friday, Bainimarama said that every Fiji citizen must now ask, "Are we going to be bullied and pressured into doing things that are clearly not in our national interest?

"If we succumb to such pressures, what next?" he asked.

Bainimarama said he had also conveyed "sadness" to other forum leaders over dominance of the forum by Australia and New Zealand.

"Pacific Island countries will need to be vigilant to protect the forum organization becoming a foreign policy tool of these two countries. They now seem to have usurped the moral leadership of the region," he said.

On Monday, Bainimarama warned the forum that he would consider withdrawing from the group if it pushed Fiji too hard to hold elections before it is ready, but he made no mention of an election timeframe in the speech.

Mahendra Chaudhry, who was Fiji's finance minister until Monday and who remains close to Bainimarama's government, said suspension from the forum would not amount to much.

"I find the forum of little relevance. It is seen as an institution heavily dominated by Australia and New Zealand, with island nations within it having very little say in its affairs," Chaudhry told New Zealand's National Radio.

Chaudhry backed Bainimarama's position that elections under Fiji's current electoral system would be "racially skewed" and that it would be a mistake to move too quickly with new elections.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

PUBLIC NOTICE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THE COUNTER AT HEARING OFFICE SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. ON A DAILY BASIS. The counter shall remain open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. This change is necessary to give the Hearing Office staff sufficient time to perform filing, data entry and other functions associated with processing appeals, orders, etc. The change is being made to improve efficiency in order to better serve the public. [Please note that although the counter will be closed at the above-noted times, Hearings scheduled during those periods will still take place.]

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR AUGUST 28, 29, 2008 & SEPTEMBER 04, 05, 11, & 12, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-496	Concepcion, Andrea M.	3-H Corporation	September 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-175	Kapau-An Jr., Lorenzo G.	4JC Corporation	August 28, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-707	Corpus, Mario Ferdinand N.	ABBA Corporation	September 12, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-701	Arsenal, Maria Luisa Dls.	Advance Group LLC	August 29, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-583	Guirit, Estrella L.	Aldan, Redie	September 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-723	Akimaru, Hiroki	Aqua Soul Saipan Inc.	August 28, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-579	Asuelo, Marlene Q.	Asiatico, Danilo E.	September 11, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-580	Feria, Lorito D.	Asiatico, Danilo E.	September 11, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-511	Cisnero, Lorna M.	Baltazar, Luisito	September 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-476	Bao, Xiao Ming	Blue Sky Corporation	August 28, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-638	Sundiam, Pee Jay L.	Boo II Corporation	September 4, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-566	Noble, Joefry F.	Calvo, Julian S.	August 28, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-618	Reyes, Arlina R.	Calvo, Julian S.	August 28, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-595	Pangilanan, Federico II P.	Castro, Alexander	September 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-419	Pomarijos, Albert V.	Clyburn, Donald W.	September 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-589	Calage, Crisita S.	Crystal Seas - CNMI, Inc.	September 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-588	Abella, Juanita M.	Crystal Seas CNMI Inc.	September 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-519	Zhang, Yong	Cui Rong Corporation	August 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-465	Dizon, Leonora M.	D L Corporation	August 28, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-560	Luo, Xiaomin	Dai Development Corporation	August 29, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-585	Traspice, Lerma B.	Demapan, Ignacia T.	September 11, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-366	Cao, Chao Yong	Diana & Daisy Corporation	September 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-490	Estrada, Veronica H.	Ebilane Corporation	August 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-627	Acero, Jesus R.	ECM International Corporation	September 4, 2008	1:00 p.m
DC 08-551	Martinez, Vhilma S.	Elidchedong, James R.	August 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-544	Wang, Hui Ying	Everbright Company Ltd.	August 29, 2008	1:00 p.m
DC 08-545	Xu, Xinbao	Everbright Company Ltd.	August 29, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-709	Tabdasan, Analyn T.	Future Dev. Corporation	September 12, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-581	Novillas, Ernesto Jr. L.	Graphics Inc.	August 28, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-714	Chen, Dongshun	Great Sunshine Corporation	September 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-715	Guo, Jinling	Great Sunshine Corporation	September 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-590	Hu, Xingfen	Great Wall Corporation	September 11, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-663	Racsa, Rusalein A.	Hart, William	August 28, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-887	Palabay, Andrew A.	Hotel Nikko Saipan	September 5, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-724	Fama, Noel T.	Hotel Nikko Spn. Inc.	September 5, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-640	Zhang, Aimei	Huana Bowen USA Inc.	September 4, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-700	Thomas, Mali Muakerd	Inter Pacific Resort Corporation	September 5, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-577	Marquez, Melecia P.	JOS Corporation	September 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-578	Laoeng, Camilo D.	JOS Corporation	September 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-246	Gementiza, Emilio R.	L & R Investment Corporation	August 28, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-226B	Zhang, Chunli	Liberty Corporation	August 28, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-599	Par, Azucena G.	Litulumar, Estaneslao	September 5, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-540	Huang, Xuanren	Luo's Corporation	August 29, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-520	Zhao, Yuanrong	Man Bao Corporation	August 29, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-537	Hernandez, Bonifacio	Marianas Environment & Dev. Inc.	September 4, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-592	Ladaban, Eugenia F.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent. Inc.	September 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-552	Agno, Rogelio B.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	August 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-705	Tenebro, Loreto E.	Northern Marianas Fisheries	September 11, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-703	Zhang, Wei	Oh Yeah Fashion, Inc.	September 11, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-711	Bayot, Rosalinda C.	Oshiro, Leslie K.	September 12, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-710	Jiang, Wenping	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	September 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-716	Qin, Fengjun	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	September 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-717	Chen, Xuexia	Pacific Horizon, Ltd.	September 12, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-628	Prado, Macario Jr. B.	Pacific Quality Builders	September 4, 2008	1:00 p.m
DC 08-706	Sammacheep, Penphun	Park, Jun Ho	September 11, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-623	Wang, Xingjuan	Peace Asia Pacific Corporation	September 5, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-513	Oh, Joon Hwan	Provenance Incorporated	August 28, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-598	Han, Hong Zhen	Q J Company Ltd.	September 5, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-500	Tarriela, Lorna G.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	September 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-501	Castillo, Carmelita B.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	September 4, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-708	Yabut, Marlyn R.	Rabauliman, Bernadita R.	September 12, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-167	Yan, Chengyi	Rigel Corporation	September 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-591	Jiang, Changcheng	Royal Supplies Inc.	September 5, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-113	De La Torre, Romeo H.	Saipan Education Center Inc.	September 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-752	Cui, Yinhua	Se Hoon Corporation	September 12, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-753	Sun, Jingzhu	Se Hoon Corporation	September 12, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-763	Yang, Zhengju	Se Hoon Corporation	September 12, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-764	Bian, Chungping	Se Hoon Corporation	September 12, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-765	Lu, Chao	Se Hoon Corporation	September 12, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-487	Medino, Connie V.	Se Young Corporation	August 29, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-462	Shan, Rongmei	Seman, Enrique K.	August 28, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-463	Dabu, Liezle B.	Seman, Enrique K.	August 28, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-464	Ma, Fengying	Seman, Enrique K.	August 28, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-712	Huang, Yuji	Sin Hwa Corporation	September 12, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-582	Carandang, Angeles M.	South Pac Galaxy Corporation	September 4, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-702	Kim, Kyoungmyoung	St. Marks Inc.	September 4, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-610	Chan, Juanito M.	Star Corporation	September 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-555	Sun, Chunxiang	Sun Wen Corporation	August 29, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-412	Feria, Dicky B.	Taimanao, Nemia F.	September 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-637	Llanes, Veronica L.	Vienna Corporation	September 4, 2008	2:00 p.m
DC 08-612	Navarro, Jehazel D. S.	Whitenack, Elena C.	September 5, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-622	Kim, Soon Hwa	Woong & Rok Inc.	September 5, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-539	Caguiat, Anicia V.	Y.K. Corporation	August 29, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-594	Zheng, Guozhen	Y.Z.L. Corporation	September 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-792	Zhen, Guozhang	Yantze Corporation	September 12, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-793	Li, Kaiming	Yantze Corporation	September 12, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-794	Deng, Jin Yan	Yantze Corporation	September 12, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-795	Che, Yushan	Yantze Corporation	September 12, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-713	Chen, Chunfei	Z.Y. Li Corporation	September 12, 2008	10:00 a.m.

A summer to remember in Palau

By KEITH AUGHENBAUGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Our summer vacation to Palau, originally scheduled for three weeks, turned into almost seven weeks total for 12 members of the Aughenbaugh family—grandma, mom and dad, four sons, one daughter, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and a cousin.

A family project and the 18-and-Under Palau Youth Games—highlighted in Wednesday's *Saipan Tribune* issue—contributed to our extended stay.

But what a blessing the additional time brought for all of us. In many ways the quality of life is currently better in Palau; 24-hour power and 24-hour water that you can drink right out of the faucet in my mother-in-law Mechelins' (Kumangai) village of Ngardmau, about 20 miles from the new Japan/Palau Friendship Bridge, connecting Babeldoap Island to the commercial center of Koror.

The pace of life is slower in Palau, especially in Ngardmau, where only several hundred people live. You can actually spend quality time with your family. There are so many things to do together: fishing, viewing marine and coral life, swimming in the rivers, hiking to the waterfalls, picnicking at the Rock Islands, visiting the Dolphin Exhibit, the Palau National Museum, and crocodiles at the Palau Aquarium or driving on the new 50-mile Compact Road around the lush, undeveloped main island of Babeldoap with a stop at the new Capitol Complex of the Palau government in Melekeok.

A wonderful summer to remember and a definite place to visit!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The 100-foot Tagi Falls in Ngardmau State.

Charity with brothers Derrick and Kevin, sister-in-law Nanette, and niece Irieyana Kaumei.

The world-famous Rock Islands of Palau.

The author's wife, Brigida, along with their son Derrick and his daughter Irieyana Kaumei with a trainer at the Dolphin Exhibit in Koror.

The author's seven-year-old granddaughter, Brinette, shows off the baby shark relatives caught in Ngardmau.

Great grandma Mechelins at home with Irieyana Kaumei.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 25, 1999

Young's aide satisfied with reforms - Teno
A key aide to U.S. House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) has expressed his satisfaction to local leaders over recent labor and immigration reforms they have put in place in efforts to quell federal takeover proposal in the Congress. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed yesterday that his meeting with Manase Mansur, adviser on insular and international affairs for the House panel who is visiting the island, has led to understanding the present conditions of the Northern Marianas.

Sept. 22 is deadline for filing of candidacy
The Board of Elections yesterday urged all political parties to submit their nominating petitions for candidates on or before Sept. 22, the deadline for filing of candidacy. BOE Executive Director Greg Sablan said the board is scheduled to meet on Sept. 29 and 30 to review and certify the nominating petitions.

OSHA seeks partnership with SGMA
The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is looking at forging "cooperative partnership" with the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association in efforts to ensure compliance with local and federal laws as well as to improve working conditions on the island. Jim Wulff, safety and health manager for OSHA Region 9 which covers the CNMI, said there is a marked improvement in the conditions at several factories, but added others may need to step up their in-house safety and health programs.

August 25, 2000

Bad records derail OPA audit of NMC
The Office of the Public Auditor is increasing efforts that would pave the way for the completion of its long-standing audit of the Northern Marianas College, which has been ongoing for more than two years now. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said the CNMI's lone higher learning institution's previous records were badly kept, hampering OPA's efforts to complete its audit-investigation promptly. "NMC records were bad. Some of the documents that are vital to our audit are hard to find. You can't finish an audit-investigation promptly if you are dealing with bad records," said Mr. LaMotte.

Initiative clears house
The proposed legislative initiative mandating a minimum 25 percent share of the budget for public education hurdled its first step yesterday after the House of Representative approved the proposal with major changes. Education officials, however, lost their battle to keep surplus budget left in a fiscal year into the next as one amendment requires that the excess money be returned to the general fund for re-appropriation by the Legislature.

Plan to amend gun control law worries Senate
Following concerns on the safety of the community, the Senate is expected to scrutinize legislation that will amend the Weapons Control Act to encourage development of resorts offering shooting practices and target ranges. While supportive of the efforts to bring in new investments into the CNMI, Senate President Paul A. Manglona said he needs to consider safety concerns when the measure is deliberated in the upper house.

August 25, 2002

Governor beefs up Rota's emergency fund
A measure that seeks to beef up emergency fund for use in the rehabilitation of Rota from last month's onslaught of Typhoon Chata'an earned Gov. Juan N. Babauta's signature, giving local leaders the authority in disbursing the money for the island's swift recovery. The Governor signed House Bill 13-167, which reprograms funds from several statutes to the Typhoon Chata'an Emergency Fund, into Public Law 13-167 Wednesday.

Single and Driven Profiles of inspiring, young men and woman Part II
On Tinian--the enchanting island five miles south of Saipan--a breed of single, young and motivated individuals abound. This batch of talented, Tinian-born residents have clear-cut visions of what they want out of life and are ready to take on the challenges involved to achieve their dreams and aspirations. Hang out with some of the islands' most admired young men and women in Saipan Tribune's second batch of the CNMI's Young and Empowered.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING CASES
LABOR, AGENCY, DENIAL, and REMAND

Monday, August 25, 2008 first notice
Monday, September 1, 2008 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. In particular, if you have wage claims or if wage claims are made against you, please bring supporting documentation. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.
This notice also includes pending remands from the Secretary of Labor with respect to appeals.

If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Chief, Enforcement Section, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
6-103-08		White House Corporation dba Moon Night Club	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-020-02		DLZ American Corp. and Alan Leung	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Abaygar, Zenaida N.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Acquiatan, Cristina C.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
SA 06-037				
REMAND	Aleta, Danilo Jr.	Lincoln Delos Santos	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-084-08	Alquetra, Marita P.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
LC 06-095	Amadure, Miriam S.	Vision Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-267	Antalan, Edwardo B.	Maria E. Pelisamen	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Aspe, Victoria A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Asuncion, Leomhar E.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Babila, Punay D.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Bacerdo, Erlinda O.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Bao, Weihong	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 06-326	Bao, Yuhua	Edward C. Cabrera	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Braza, Adelina D.O.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Brillo, Divina S.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Cabrera, Maria C.B.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-099-12	Canon, Matilde O.	Chanpac, Inc. dba Club Jama	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Capina, Araceli V.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Carino, Adona D.C.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-099-12	Carranza, Meliza E.	Chanpac, Inc. dba Club Jama	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Castro, Regie R.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Castro, Romel M.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-099-12	Cayetano, Rafael S.	Chanpac, Inc. dba Club Jama	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Chai, Fengqi	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Chaikla, Duangchan	Winners Corporation	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
01-025-03	Chen, Pei Kun	Li Heng Ltd.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Cho, Yeun Kyung	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Clemente, Rosario J.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 06-251	Concillado, M. Elvie	Top Fashion Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Corpuz, Haidee M.	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Corrales, Venerando M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Dacuno, Marites A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Daniel, Monica D.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	De Mesa, Ruel Y.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-099-12	Degala, Maricris D.	Chanpac, Inc. dba Club Jama	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Dela Cruz, Alona R.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-084-08	Dela Cruz, Danilo R.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Dela Rosa, Filipina D.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 06-262	Dellota, Wilma M.	R & S Enterprises	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Delos Santos, Yolanda S.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
01-025-03	Deng, Fuchen	Li Heng Ltd.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Doctolero, Adela C.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-195	Dumdumaya, Salve M.R.	Roy Jen Enterprises	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m..
07-079-06	Espinosa, Nenita A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Fabian, Dennis P.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Feng, Kangni	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Fernandez, Emma M.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Fuentes, Evelyn C.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Galang, Marites L.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Galario, Alexander R.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Galvez, Virgilia P.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-005-01	Garcia, Carmelito C. (deceased)	Pelisamen, Maria E.	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Geluz, Epifania V.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Gorembalem, Francisco C.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 07-008	Gu, Xuetian	Jing Yang Corp., et. al.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Guan, Xian Mei	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Gustar, Jose C.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	He, Jing Hua	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 00-264	Heo, In Sook	Jeon Co., Inc. and Kuk Young Jen	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 04-508	Hoque, Namzul	Marianas Hotel Services, Ltd.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
03-052-09	Hu, Yan Ping	Mirage Saipan Co., Ltd.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 06-325	Hua, Bofu	Edward C. Cabrera	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Icalina, Dian A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 05-166	Jiang, Lirong	New Echo Ent. Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Jin, Hongyu	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Jin, Quanbin	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Jo, Won Gu	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Jose, Danilo	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Jovellanos, Fortuna N.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-099-12	Lagmay, Cristanto D.	Chanpac, Inc. dba Club Jama	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Landicho, Evangeline B.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Lapat, Valeriano P.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Le, Ling	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Le, Ping	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Lee, Byung Ill	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Leonor, Narciso A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-607	Li, Baofang	United International Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-021-03	Li, Bofei		Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
LC 05-336	Li, Zhen	Date Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 01-172	Liu, Geng Rong	Crystal Star Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Liu, Meishu	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Liu, Yafang	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
LC 07-280	Llagas, Jerry M.	Willie L. Brundidge Jr. d.b.a. Mozell's Boys Lawn and Trash Service	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Locanas, Jesus M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 06-095	Lopez, Cynthia M.	Vision Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 05-216	Lua, Vivian E.	Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Malapo, Helen M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
99-194-05	Malapo, Valerie Joy B.	Hole In The Wall and Misamis Saipan, Inc.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Manalo, Mirabel A.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Mangao, Persory M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Manlangit, Ely T.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Marante, Lolita D.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-084-08	Marizan, Wilma D.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-026-03	Martinez, Femina T.	Joshua Generation Int'l Academy	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-084-08	Melindo, Christopher C.	Pelisamen, Maria E.DLC and De Luna, Raymond DLC	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Mendoza, Edna M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 05-368	Micronesian Brokers Inc.	Doila, Maria M.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Nicolas, Elvira G.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Noriega, Andres A.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Nosa, Grace V.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Ocampo, Alicia M.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-128	Pangan, Fe V.	New Three Diamond Co., Ltd.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Park, Jin Won	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Park, Jin Young	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Park, Ju Won	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Pattung, Josephine C.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Penalosa, Guillerma D.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 05-336	Peng, Shue Xiong	Date Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Pineda, Teresita B.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Prasansee, Janthai	Winners Corporation	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Pulido, Marilou J.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 05-240	Qian, Meiling	Song Yong Jun Dba Banana Karaoke Bar	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Quan, Shun Nu	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Quevedo, Alicia R.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Quilantang, Anita L.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 07-315	Ramos, Gracita M.	American Joint Partner Corp., Ltd.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
LC 07-208	Rasalingam, Kanagasabai	TKL Enterprises, Inc.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m..
07-079-06	Rebultan, Milagrosa R.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Sadiua, Rabio T. II	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 06-095	Santiago, Jennifer V.	Vision Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Si, Zhiyan	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-075-06	Sison, Nilda O.	Domingo, Crispina F. aka Salazar, Grace	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-363	Song, Liwei	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Soriano, Jocelyn D.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Steuber, Salvacion S.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
01-025-03	Su, Bing Rong	Li Heng Ltd.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Sui, Guiwei	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-143-11	Surisantos, Antonio B.	Herman's Modern Bakery	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 08-006	Susan, Antonio A.	Ada, Edward B. (deceased)	Sept. 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Tadtad, Flory M.S.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Tagaban, Joji E.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Tang, Xiaoying	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-079-06	Teodoro, Amelia A.	Guzman, Linglingay	Sept. 9, 2008	11:00 a.m.
04-016-03	Torculas, Catherine A.	Tudela, Victoria T.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-140-10	Valdez, Edgar U.	Pacific Utility & Comm., Inc.	Sept. 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Viray, Mary Ann C.	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Wang, Hongyu	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-168	Wang, Ju	Sheng Rong Development Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 06-327	Wang, Yanni	Edward C. Cabrera	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Wei, Yanlin	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-241	Wei, Yanlin	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-437	Wen, Zhen Wang	American Sai Green Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Wu, Chunxia	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 06-230	Xia, Li Ying	Rifu Apparel Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Xiang, Nixia	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
01-025-03	Xu, Pei Chan	Li Heng Ltd.	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 06-106	Xu, Yuan Mei	United International Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-034	Yan, Haibo	Dela Rose, Mary M. and Joseph	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
LC 04-698	Yan, Luo	American Langente Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Yang, Kyung Hee	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Yang, Meifang	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 04-410	Ye, Jiamin	United International Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-077-06	Yoon, Haw Jin	A&K Development Co.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
01-060-04	Zhang, Guohua	NET Corporation	Sept. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
LC 01-172	Zhang, Jiaxian	Crystal Star Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Zhang, Ling	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Zhang, Qi Xia	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-072-05	Zhang, Qiuping	Chang Cheng Int'l, Inc. and He, Jing Hua	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Zhang, Qiyun	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-169	Zhang, Xiuyun	Sheng Rong Development Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Zhang, Yuan Zhen	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 98-402	Zhang, Zhanshan	American Kai Hua Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
LC 07-279	Zhao, Chun Xiu	Neo Fashion, Inc. and Marianas Ins. Co., Ltd.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
08-131-04	Zhao, Yunjie	World Apparel, Inc.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 98-402	Zheng, Fengrong	American Kai Hua Corp.	Sept. 11, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-605	Zhou, Hailan	United International Corp.	Sept. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
07-073-05	Zhou, Shuyun	Seki, Wen Mei and Henry	Sept. 11, 2008	11:00 a.m.
LC 07-264	Zhuang, Xuezan	Yong Cheng Corporation	Sept. 11, 2008	9:00 a.m.

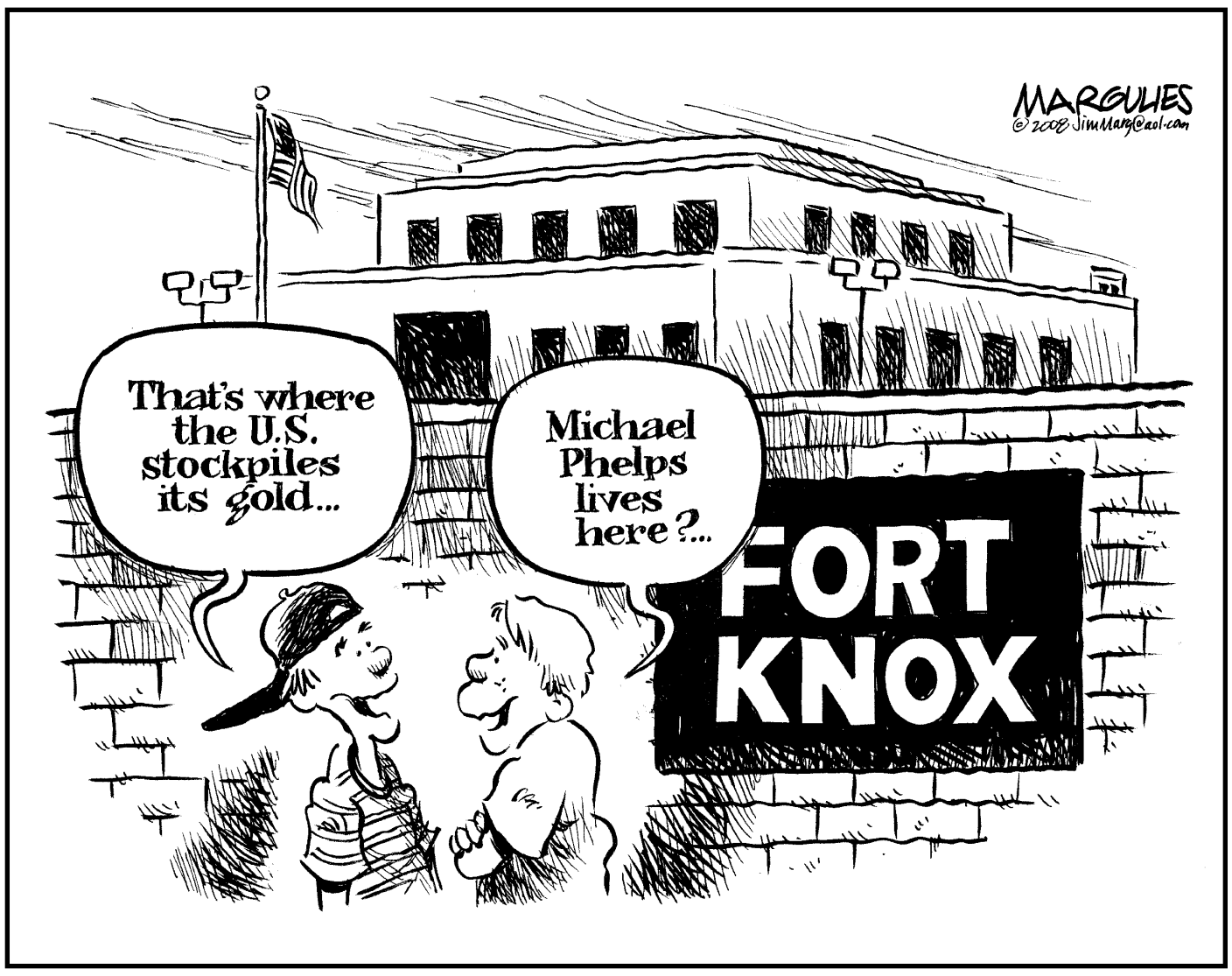
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 238

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association



EDITORIAL

Mayhem at the Saipan airport

Last Thursday's three-hour power outage at the Saipan International Airport certainly created havoc. It cut to the heart of what we should never do to our tourists: give them a bad experience while on our soil.

For some, this was their last experience of a vacation they had saved up and looked forward to for months. They took home a memory and a story we wish they would not tell their friends.

The power outage at the airport was caused when CUC's generators did not work and/or what is now a typical rolling black out hit in the wee hours of the morning when we receive vital night flights from Japan and Korea. Saipan International Airport's two backup generators then failed, delaying two flights and stranding hundreds of passengers inside a sweltering airport.

The outage bogged down the computerized system at the Arrivals and Departure areas, preventing TSA from screening baggage. The airport is the first place our tourists will see of the CNMI and it doesn't bode well for the islands when our visitors can't land due to the lack of runway lights. We feel especially sorry for the tired and frustrated tourists who had already checked out of hotels during the wee hours of the morning and were trying to get home.

This situation embarrassed not just the Commonwealth, but our partners in the tourism industry: the airlines, the tour agents, the hotels, the airport's tenants, other businesses and all those who were sending off or receiving guests. Many people were placed in the untenable position of having to apologize for a lack of investment in preventive maintenance and proper planning.

Asiana Airlines's General Manager for the Regional Sales Office in Saipan summed up the situation thus: "It was really a very terrible experience. It was a very difficult time for us, especially the passengers."

Then acting CPA Executive Director immediately expressed regret over the incident and appealed for everyone's understanding. But unfortunately, CPA should have seen this coming. This was not the first time that such a situation has happened and we should have anticipated further blackouts. The backup generators at the airport went down several months ago, while repair work reportedly started only last month.

Worse, repairs on airport's generators are not expected to be completed until the end of November or first week of December. With CUC's generators on the blink, these repairs at our airport should have been a top priority. CPA is already under an emergency declaration due to a lack of management, and expediting the repairs is just one more justification for it.

With an economy that is barely limping along, we should try doubly hard to ensure that the lone industry that's keeping the CNMI from flying apart at the seams is well supported. We hope that the new board of directors and new executive director at the Commonwealth Ports Authority will jump on this issue as the top priority of the day.

Excuses! Excuses! No Excuses! DO IT!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Last week we discussed the need for residents to become small business owners and skilled tradesmen. We should be the shopkeepers; we should operate the repair shops; we should own the service companies. I stressed that unless we do that, we will never become strong again economically. Instead we will become a nation of dependents accepting handouts from foreign investors and the federal government more than we are now.

Several people gave me reasons why local people cannot become business owners. I dismissed all of their negative comments as garbage that soils the mind. We have the ability, the will, and the courage to change. We have matured. We realize that unless we take control of our destiny, someone else will and we will never be free or happy again.

What we seem to have forgotten is that prior to 1983, there were numerous locally owned "mom and pop" shops on Saipan. These businesses were exclusively run by local residents. What happened?

After 1982, and prior to 1995, the CNMI encouraged open foreign investment. The Foreign Investment Board had been abolished and the foreign investment section of the Trust Territory Code was repealed. For $50, an individual could obtain a business license and set up as many different businesses as desired. Some of these license holders took advantage of the favorable conditions which included low wages and few restrictions on foreign labor. Recall that in 1987, there were 66 garment factories in operation and more to come.

Nonresidents and foreign nationals exploited the liberal system. The business license became a vehicle to facilitate immigration. Under the guise of establishing a legitimate business, illegal immigrants inundated the CNMI. By 1994, 90,000 business permits had been issued! A majority of these businesses never existed. But the doors were opened for foreigners to settle in the CNMI. Enough of history. Let's look to the present and the future.

On June 9, 2009, the United States will take over our immigration office. From that date on, they will decide who comes in as a guest worker and investor. On Dec. 31, 2014, the influx of guest workers will become zero. We still have time to help ourselves.

It is good to look back and see what caused the situation we are stewing in. The excuses given why we should not or cannot be business operators are only hot air smoke. To believe that we cannot change is to submit us all to crippling dependency and handout aid. I refuse to believe them. We must become business operators!

We must take charge of our own economic development and destiny. Instead of waiting for things to happen, we must make them happen. To do this, we must figure out what we want, learn how to do it, and go out and get it! One of the first actions is for each of us to want to become independent owners and help ourselves.

As you know I recently started a trades school. Most of the students did not have jobs and were very depressed. In less than six weeks, over 10 students have found jobs that never seemed to exist. In fact, some of the students told me when the employers heard they were attending the trades school, they were immediately hired.

When these students graduate, they will become independent tradesmen servicing our homes. They will not be collecting handouts nor working for minimum wages. They will be proud skilled workers of our community.

The Guam Contractors Association Trade Academy, started over two years ago, has over 100 students who are in great demand as employees. Yet many of the students before attending the trades academy could not find work before. This is starting to happen here.

I am not trying to persuade you to enter any business you don't want to. That is a choice you have to make individually. However please do not complain when the rest of the island leaves you behind. Remember the more foreign investors operate our small busi-

See EXCUSES on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lusions

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

OK, Joseph, 'lusions' is not a word that you can find in the dictionary, unless you look it up in an etymology dictionary and you might find a middle English usage meaning the opposite of 'illusions.' It might have derived from the Latin *ludere,* which means, being playful (light touch rather than down heavy) with reality. Denial of reality, which, for purposes of alliteration, is associated with delusion, dissimulation, deception, dissembling, and deceit, might make one wonder why the word 'lusion' would have disappeared from our vocabulary while its opposite and a myriad of derivatives survived.

A psychiatrist friend says that the figure of 10 percent of population being in touch with reality is probably a high figure. That 90 percent, however, live in some form of illusion is a more reliable figure. I do not know how researchers come up with quantified figures like this but perhaps, the tools of statistical probability help by random sampling. In any case, casting one's eyes around friends and colleagues, and more significantly, on one's self, it is not difficult to see, if one were really honest, how indeed, the 10 percent "realistic living" people might actually be a high figure.

It is no surprise then that we should be more familiar with whatever reality the words 'illusions, delusions, elusions and allusions' are pointing to, for we might be more adept at their practice rather than that of their long departed antonym.

This is not a moralistic essay to judge common perceptions and contemporary behavior, though it would not be surprising were one end with such conclusion were one to follow this track.

Since the French philosopher René Descartes articulated his dictum *cogito ergo sum,* "I think, therefore, I am," humans mistook their essence for their existence, and started living their lives in their minds and imagination without necessarily checking with the reality factor external to them. Ancient thinkers did prefer the workings of the mind rather than the impression of the senses as a more reliable tool to assessing what is real. In the pecking order from the Indus Valley, the Brahmin, the scholars and the priests, were on top of the social heap. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle in Greece, and Kung Fu Tzu in China, Augustine and Aquinas for Europe, would guide cultures and civilizations with their thoughts. In our time, the various interpretations by the "people of the books" (BTW, bible—*biblos* in Greek—that mainstay in many American living rooms, simply means "books," not its "title") of their accumulated traditions steers tribal paths and is wreaking havoc to the emerging planetary social order.

Our current White House reportedly had gotten hold of the imaginative power of the Apocalypse and Armageddon so much so that foreign policy decisions—economic and military—had been tailored to apocalyptic scenarios. GWB might have recovered his senses, which should have come along with his clean-cut haircut from the beginning, with his sudden Teddy Roosevelt conversion into creating as a part of his legacy, a few marine monuments before leaving office. Since I opposed the establishment of the GWB Presidential Library in my alma mater, Southern Methodist University, a single stroke of the pen on the marine monuments might restore him back to my good graces and might just get him off the hook in my eternal consignment of his presidency to purgatory!

Just so we are grounded here, here's GWB on reality a few years back: "One year ago I gave a speech in an aircraft-carrier saying that we had succeeded in reaching an important objective, accomplishing a mission, which was to remove Saddam Hussein from power. As a result, there are no more torture chambers, no more mass graves." (George W. Bush, 30 April 2004.) In the same month, the world was to see the photos of torturing in the Abu Graib prison, and the collective executions of the civil war between Shiites and Sunnis continue up to the moment.

But I digress. While this essential workings of the mind and imagination is a powerful insight in that it taught us how to affect people's images and therefore, their behavior, we have also become captive of the prisons of our own prisms, building internal castles of feelings and thoughts without regard of the sensory presence impinging and abiding. Just look at our consumer habits and it is clear that our actions derive not from the basic requirements of existence, but on the essential illusions of the mind and the imagination.

The current economic downturn has at least, brought the "survivor" instinct back into home budgets. Parents are now taking their children to the back-to-school sales with the question: do you need this, or do you just want it because other children have it?

Recognizing YHWH (Yahweh), which means "that which is, is," or as depicted in the Decalogue, "there is no other Reality but me," the *sunum bonum* of existence is living in our lusions, and not in our illusions. The salvation we seek is not about being taken away from our current predicament or situation into another one; our redemption is to be freed from our illusions and into the stark but can-be embraced and celebrated light of day.

Being on denial is the current phrase to describe most of our behavior. We cannot seem to relinquish our leech-hold on the imagined golden age of the garment industry, with or without Abramoff and Tom Delay, and with all its known aberrations and cuddling of criminal practices. The INS for the last three weeks offered clearance and safe passage to almost half a million illegal aliens. Only eight took the offer, all eight still have to leave the country.

I was in Helena, Montana in the '70s and noticed the high Hispanic population. I asked: "When did they come here?" Answer: "They were here before we were." There had always been traffic from the Berring Sea to the Yucatan, extending even to the tip of the Andes, and just because the British and the Iberians could not see eye to eye, or some propertied gents out in Philadelphia thought of drawing a line on the sand so that they can mint their own currency, does not define who is alien and who is native in this planet?

Thus, we applaud Irene Tantiado and her helpless contract workers for reminding us of the Administrative Orders we issued that are lighter than balloon hot air, and are of no comfort to those who are waiting for something promised but are nowhere to be found.

And though it is depressing to confront the short-sightedness, and loss of nerve, or worst, knee-jerk responding out of fear and trepidation, of the legislature in "killing" the Sablan-Salas initiative to improve immigration status of contract workers before the Feds have their say, we shan't despair. (BTW, TY to Tina for pointing out the public funding for Legislators who like to fish. I mean, really!)

Let us be clear of one thing. Like the almost half a million illegal aliens by INS account, the contract workers in the CNMI did not hock their body and soul for three years worth of earnings to come to these islands just so they can be our eternal bonded servants.

They came here to stay because we are the USA, and we delightfully feasted on the sweat of their brows, exploited their pocketbooks, and for some, indulge in our known propensity to imbibe in their pulchritude. All they are asking is fairness in a land where such virtue is a claimed and legally enshrined quality, and where the supremacy of federal laws so far have proven to be more an instrument of justice than the peculiarities and uniqueness of local prerogatives and privileges.

One more lusion: inspite of what some luminaries in the GOP are now claiming that the U.S. Constitution promulgated a Republic rather than a democracy, and that we should rely on the expertise and wisdom of the elected representatives and not on the passion of the mob, I say, maybe so, but after Abe Lincoln and MLK, Rosa Parks, and the Kennedy Brothers, even the libertarian Ayn Rand and Charles Reyes, and across the seas, Mandela, Gandhi and Mary Robinson, we are a democracy holding up as paramount the participation of the individual person (*We the People,* our elders wrote, not, *We the Citizens)* in the affairs that determines one's destiny.

Did you notice that even Beijing is now singing, "You and Me, We are Family!"

Will the retirees' financial resources wind up a CUC 'money pot'? Let's hope not

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I can certainly understand the chairman of the Fund's concern over the condition of the power situation on Saipan and his desire to help the people, he is truly a fine man and a friend—and friends can disagree, (I hope). In my judgment as a result of his position his primary and overriding concern, dedication and due diligence along with that of the full Board of Trustees should be to preserve the solvency of the retirees' assets and let the government worry about CUC. I really can't see where investing in CUC will contribute toward that end.

After all CUC is a mess the government alone created as a result of years of neglect and lack of independent supervision not unlike the damaged it is now causing the Retirement Fund. In my opinion a Fund investment in CUC is not a good investment. To the contrary, it would be a very poor investment particularly at this time—and perhaps at anytime. I'll provide more on basic fiduciary responsibilities in part 2 of this series for those interested.

To raise money for CUC's rehabilitation which I acknowledge is needed, the government has assets it could sell off to provide financing for CUC's new generators and to pay off CUC's current debt of $ 215 million of which I suspect much has already been spent for fuel and the resulting smoke up the stack—money—now "gone with the wind", so to speak. It's a debt the retirees should not be expected to pay under any circumstances. If the government is so desperate it could sell off Capitol and Navy Hill housing which do not earn any revenue to my knowledge. The government could also privatize the air and sea port. If the government sold those assets it would have money to solve CUC's problems. But we all know that will never happen.

There are several reasons for not investing in CUC *which should be obvious to everyone familiar with the incompetence, waste, inefficiency and alleged criminal activity of certain individuals associated with the organization. The latter alone if true is a great pity and a huge disappointment.*

The Fund's chair was quoted in this paper (Aug. 22) as stating "the CUC is a good opportunity for the Retirement Fund to invest in because it is a monopoly." A monopoly it certainly is—a good investment it is not. The fact that it is a monopoly didn't help it before—what would then be different with the CUC monopoly when financed with retirees' invested money? I'll tell you—no difference. The only monopoly resulting would be "Monopoly money" on the Fund's return on investment.

Not all organizations that are monopolies fare well, and CUC is a classic example. With no competition to keep it efficient and its management accountable, the utility was run into the ground. There is nothing that would make me think that with a massive injection of retirees' money that its performance would improve. My dear sweet granny said, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." As for the opinion of this economist regarding the Fund's interest in considering investing in CUC I think it would be disastrous for the member's future retirement security which is already being seriously undermined by the Legislature and the central government. Frankly, the two branches are doing everything possible to "dump" the Fund. If you don't believe that look at the record. Then if you still don't believe it—I have some old shoes I would like to sell you.

There are several reasons for not investing in CUC which should be obvious to everyone familiar with the incompetence, waste, inefficiency and alleged criminal activity of certain individuals associated with the organization. The latter alone if true is a great pity and a huge disappointment.

Many of these concerns have been described in some of my essays which have appeared in this column and can be reviewed in the *Tribune* archives (see below). Others have appeared elsewhere in the local media and need not be repeated here—but one viewpoint that has rarely been discussed is the possibility that the provision of reliable and sustained power for Saipan may simply never be cost effective and may well have to be continually subsidized by the government just as other physical, medical and educational infrastructure is subsidized, if not directly by the NMI then by the

See WILL on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

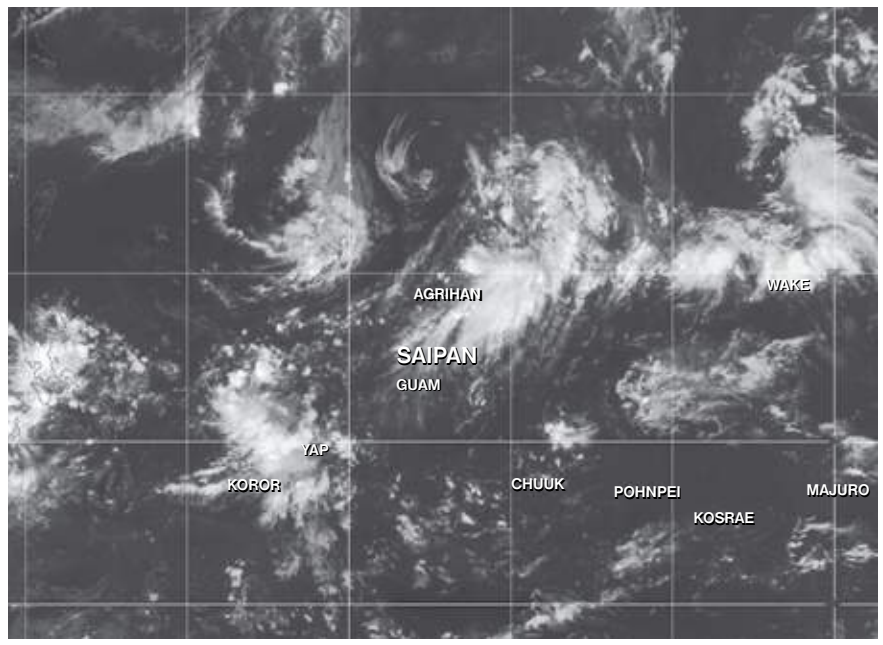
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲58	▼54
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲75	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲62	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼64
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Paris	Cloudy	▲72	▼61
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼63
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Seoul	Cloudy	▲85	▼65
Tokyo	Showers	▲83	▼72
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure is centered near 24N146E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in two areas. One area is within 100 miles of a line from 21N137E to 25N140E. Another area is across the Northern Mariana Islands from 14N144E to 25N150E to 25N154E to 20N155E back to 14N144E. An upper-level low is near 27N165E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island from 20N160 to 23N162E to 25N170E to 22N180 back to 20N160E. Low-level convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap and near Palau from 14N132E to 10N139E to 6N135E back to 14N132E. A trade wind surge is producing a small area of thunderstorms within 75 miles of a line from 13N158E to 13N162E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:23AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:26AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:17PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:25PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	6:04AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:04AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:02AM	1:38PM
Tuesday	1:03AM	2:41PM
Wednesday	2:08AM	3:39PM
Thursday	3:12AM	4:32PM
Friday	4:14AM	5:20PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Letters to the Editor

The unaccounted load at the power plant

It is common for all of us to have read or heard that CUC has the worst, ineffective customer phone service ever, most likely too that most of us presume that this is true until you are done reading the things you need to know of this particular issue, hopefully as much as I can relate personally here.

When the power goes out, most of us instinctively made it a priority to grab the phone and call the power plant, (don't be surprised if others can even do it in the dark), before lighting up any candle or any other non-electrical source of portable power, in a mood geared enough to bad-mouth whoever is the unlucky power plant individual willing to listen whilst maintaining civility and professionalism against any odds to at least explain the unexplainable, dismal situation of our old, tired and overused, and ever-failing engines at CUC.

At the power plant side, they possibly opt to take a number of options to handle this, just keep the phones ringing while priorities are being handled, that is to put back the power whenever possible at the soonest and answer later, or the least desirable but most effective option particular to this, unplug the phone while things of more importance was being tackled. Here are some things that our readers should know.

We could not ever rule out that every time we experience discomfort in any form caused by loss of power, we get frustrated, annoyed to the max, angry enough that most of us could not take time to pause and understand why it should happen.

Old engines by nature are prone to failure, as it goes beyond its prescribed useful life, the entire positive output it can give after, translates as a bonus.

For being an engine as cold as it is when it refuses to work or burning hot when pushed more to its limit, no operator can ever control it once it behaves badly, and common sense dictates that this should be well understood.

Now, while you are holding your phone receiver for 15 minutes or so listening to that seemingly endless ringing waiting for somebody to answer, (you are not alone with this kind of experience), don't picture out that at the other end there is somebody relaxing next to a ringing phone just because he deemed incoming calls are not that important, the highest probability is, a lot of individuals in there, some even overlapped to the next eight-hour duty due to lack of manpower, in their five-lb, standard pair of safety shoes are busy running around crisscrossing the whole 300-feet or more of dirty, slippery, unforgiving floor, inherent to old power plants, not to mention the need to climb back and forth vertically, from basement up to the third floor as the work requirement compounded the necessity, that one has to endure and has to do to restore normalcy as quickly as possible.

And just when everything possible was exhaustively done, it is possible to end up to the point of realizing that the trouble was bigger than initially thought, that the fixing does not require hours but days, at this juncture with solemn contention and surrender, some of them are generous enough to choose picking up the phone for you, ready to listen and give the relief you want for your anger. Pardon my analogy, but power plant workers are not much different to soldiers, give them the best and right equipment and they will win the war for you, deprive them of that and you should know what to expect.

This appreciation does not exclusively refer to those people inside the power plant only, this equally applies to all the hard-working people of CUC, not to mention the line crews in the field, that instead of the 70+ decibels of noise that surrounds anyone inside the power plant all the time, the hazards of darkness, or strong rain be it carried by a typhoon or a milder west monsoon rain, or the ever-burning high noon of unforgiving heat under the sun, these people most of the time are required to move at great distances as quickly as possible between feeders, and then as if their dedication was not enough, they can also have bad experiences, that without a clue through their VHF hand-held radio they can be told to get back quickly to the last feeder they just turned on minutes ago because it was turned off due to another unavoidable power plant emergency.

What these people consistently carry on their shoulders in their line of work is just but acceptable in the field they choose, but to reward them with a curse by an unappreciative consumer is nothing but adding an unnecessary burden on their personal being, as a person like anybody else, they get hurt too.

To let our readers, and the consumers alike know what you are doing, this is my way of saying thank you all to CUC people, for being that resilient, unperturbed under attacks by some irresponsible consumers due to lack of understanding.

By the way, I forgot to mention that I reside in one of the feeder area possibly classified as one of those sacrificed villages, because notably I could count the hours that our power is ON, rather than it is OUT as I lost track how many times were they since then. Each time I lighted a candle I have the feeling that my gesture is pretty much sympathetic with what is happening to those people at the power plant, to my relief mine is less burdensome, walking around with my featherweight sandal, in a very silent most of the time surroundings, surely not under the rain, can unplug my phone, and go back to sleep.

Rex Rodillon
Garapan, Feeder 2, 2nd Partial

The time to grow thick skin is now!

Wow! Talk about starting a wildfire, referring to the comments section of *Marianas Variety* online edition regarding my letter to the editor "Banidosu, Aug. 22, 2008." To clarify, I did not write the piece as a means of inviting the general public or opponents to attack John Bolis Gonzales—I regret this unfortunate mishap. I don't know John, never met the man, but I'm convinced that John is a classy guy, obviously very proud of his academic achievements and heritage and rightfully so. John, as well as every individual with aspirations to run for public service, understands the consequences of being scrutinized by the public—it comes with the territory. So to John and all other political aspirants, now is the time to grow thick skin if you haven't already. I wrote the piece in hopes of humbling John a bit as I felt it was unnecessary to advertise his Grade Point Average on his résumé. I understand advertising ones GPA is beneficial when applying for acceptance at a college or university, but I just could not see it belonging in his U.S. Congress delegate URL. That's my opinion and frankly I'm entitled to it. To John Gonzales and his family, I offer my most sincere apology for this mishap—*dispensa yu pot fabot*. The irony of this all is my vote was and still is leaning toward John. I don't expect my vote for John to change unless one of the other 50 or so candidates that are running for the same office do something spectacular to woo my vote. The Chamorro word *banidosu* is a double-edge sword—depending on the situation it could mean "show-off," or "proud," but the line that separates the two meanings is very thin as you can see by the reaction.

Biba Gonzales!

Philip Leyland
Navy Hill, Saipan

WILL

From Page 11

U.S. government. If history is the measure—then it's true. At any rate, a thorough, unbiased economic assessment of this very real possibility should be undertaken so the community will know once and for all. To my knowledge this issue has never before been examined from this perspective.

It may be that the "economies of scale" for a reasonable "livable" consumer power rate may never be attainable from the use of fossil fuels without a subsidy at least in the foreseeable future in terms of achieving full cost recovery. The average residential rate in the United States for electric power generated from all fuel sources is 8.9 cents per kwh *(World Almanac, 2007)*. Obviously, the cost of fuel delivery to the islands must be included in the cost of power generation.

Certainly the NMI rate is likely to never be as low as the U.S. average without a subsidy—and not a subsidy provided by the retirees.

Certainly until this evaluation is known—in my judgment none of the retirees' money should be invested in CUC and, indeed, perhaps never. I believe that such a move on the part of the Fund's Board of Trustees should funds be invested in the utility could result in law suits against each and every one of the Trustees for neglect in the exercise of their fiduciary duty. There are many laws governing the abuse of such duty particularly when ample evidence is readily available justifying to any reasonable observer that no such investment should have ever been undertaken. More about this in Part 2 of this series.

The reader may recall such a law suit came very close to being filed about two years ago when the government wanted to borrow (raid) $40 million from the Fund for CUC. I simply fail to see the justification for using the savings of retirees to "bailout" an entity of the government whose own decisions brought it to financial ruin.

Do Fund Trustees fail to see the obvious that history may well repeat itself? Indeed, there is every indication that it will repeat itself to the detriment of retirees and their dependents and their future financial security should the Fund either loan or invest in CUC. A blind person could even see the disaster.

I can assure the Trustees that there will be many retirees outraged at a proposal to invest in CUC. If the Trustees doubt this let them canvass the membership—which certainly should be done in any event. While the involvement of the members is not essential when "off-island" money managers are involved in the international market for buying and selling investment instruments—about which the average pensioner has no, or very limited immediate knowledge, however, making an investment in CUC—about which all retirees are only too familiar—is an entirely different situation—a horse of a different color as they say.

To be continued.

Editor's Note: Previous articles concerning the Retirement Fund and other subjects are available on line in the Saipan Tribune's archives and can be accessed by entering the author's name—William Stewart—in the paper's search bar.

EXCUSES!

From Page 10

nesses, the weaker and more dependent we become.

On June 9, 2009, the United States will take over our immigration office. From that date on, they will decide who comes in as a guest worker and investor. On Dec. 31, 2014, the influx of guest workers will become zero. We still have time to help ourselves.

In the hope that some of us will become motivated and seize the opportunity to become a business owner, let me suggest two sources that will help us get motivated. The first is a book written by Peter McWilliams entitled DO IT! Let's Get Off Our Buts. Notice that the word "buts" has only one "t." The "buts" are the many excuses we have for not moving ahead with our lives. Mr. McWilliams is telling to get off our excuses! This is a MUST read book.

In the book Mr. McWilliams discusses why some of us realize our dreams and some of us never do. Those who never fulfill their dreams have thousands of excuses. While those who succeed do not have excuses because they are too busy doing.

Mr. McWilliams reveals a secret that keeps us from gaining success—our comfort zone. Our comfort zone includes all the things we've done often enough to feel comfortable doing. Any behavior outside our comfort zone can result in fear, guilt, unworthiness, hurt feelings, anger, discouragement—you know discomfort. But how do we get off our buts? Simple. Just… DO IT! Read this book.

Another book is Who Moved My Cheese? This is a brief tale of two mice named Sniff and Scurry and two little people named Hem and Haw. The writers Spencer Johnson and Kenneth Blanchard relate this short story about change and how it impacts our lives. They instruct us to adjust our attitudes towards change in life, especially at work. Change occurs whether a person is ready or not. The CNMI has changed and is changing daily. It is sad to see and hear so many people trying to relive the past. We must move ahead or be left behind!

Repeatedly I have mentioned that a nation is only as strong and productive as it citizens. The more motivated and the more determined we are, the more chance for becoming strong again. Change and improvement can only come from our inner passion and determination to overcome all obstacles.

Stop whining about how corrupt some of our leaders are. Stop complaining how bad the CUC situation is. Stop waiting for the government, both local and federal, to help us. It will never happen.

Our bellyaching complaining will not change anything. Instead start thinking what can "I" personally do to improve myself and thereby make a change for the better. "I" can and must make a change!

Let us seriously act on becoming business owners. Let us take back our economy. Let us become the backbone of our labor force, not a splinter in it. Why are over 8,500 of our citizens on food stamps?

Yes, I am preaching and preaching loud and clearly, and we all know that what I am expressing is true. We must help ourselves before anyone can help us. The next time we point a finger at anyone in blame, notice that three of the remaining fingers point back to us. Try it now.

Fellow citizens, we have an inner power that needs to come out and restore the courage and the dignity we once had. Let us feed ourselves. Let us become the true owners of our land. Let us stop giving it away. Become the business owners before we lose all opportunity to do so. Let us seize the day!

Let the revolution begin!

By ED PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed Propst is the publisher of MP Magazine.

Last week, hundreds of tourists bound for South Korea and Japan were stuck on the runway because our airport had no power. This wasn't the first time, either. It is more than embarrassing; it is damaging to the one industry—tourism—that we depend on to keep our economy afloat. What will these tourists tell their friends and family upon returning home? Do we honestly think they will be coming back? No matter how many millions of dollars we spend annually trying to lure tourists to our islands, nothing tells our visitors we are fourth world quite like stranding them on an airplane for hours because the Saipan International Airport has no electricity.

Although the federal government just gave us millions to purchase back-up generators for the Saipan International Airport, it is reported it will take 500 days for the generators to get here. 500 days? What is going on here? Are they being sent from the planet Neptune? Are they coming from the future or another galaxy?

More tourists are choosing other destinations, including our neighbor competitor Guam, for a reason. It makes me laugh when I hear weak excuses such as "Guam has the U.S. military so their tourism is strong." *Ummm, hello?* Japanese tourists aren't going to Guam to see Navy sailors. They are going because more tour and travel agents are marketing Guam instead of Saipan because the CNMI is perceived as being fourth world. When you have 12-hour power outages and the power is out more than it is on, you can consider yourself a fourth world destination. And when you have no option but to fly from Guam to Saipan on a prop plane instead of a jet? Well, you get the picture.

Do we know why Japan Airlines pulled out of Saipan? Do we know why Continental left us? Do we know why businesses continue to open in Guam while no one wants to invest in Saipan? It is because investors do not trust our leaders, who have historically changed laws more times than I have changed my children's diapers.

Speaking of dirty diapers, I believe things have gotten so bad that we have no option but to retire the old guard. How can anyone support the Republican Party after its dismal performance thus far? Like everyone else, I am sick and tired of campaign promises that are made just to get people elected. Leaders of the CNMI, do you want to impress us? Then lead by example. Turn in your leased cars, eliminate your slush funds, pay for your own gas, and pay for your own cell phone bills. If we all must suffer, why shouldn't you? What makes you so special? Do you honestly believe you are entitled to such privileges? You are public servants, so start serving the public! And if you *truly* want to impress us, stop threatening the pensions of our present and future retirees. It's not your money!

In case you haven't heard already, the Retirement Fund trustees and most of our leaders believe that it is a good idea for the CNMI Retirement Fund to invest in CUC. Have they completely lost their minds? Do they understand what a bad investment is? Are they purposely trying to bankrupt the Retirement Fund? I want to remind you that it was the Republican Party that promised to protect the Retirement Fund from being "raided" in their mid-term platform of 2007. Before investing a penny of the Retirement Fund into CUC, I demand that all of our leaders withdraw their retirement and put it together with their lifetime savings and have *them* invest in our broken utilities corporation. If they are insane enough to do this, then I have some swamp land on Pagan I would like to sell them.

On another note, I would like to commend Staff Sergeant Fabian Indalecio for his letter to the editor last week. He said something that really moved me: "*Here we are, going to another country to risk our lives to fight another corrupt government, even as it is happening in our own island.*"

Staff Sergeant Indalecio is absolutely right. And I salute him and all our brave men and women who are fighting terrorism around the world and fighting for the freedom that we so enjoy. These are our true heroes. These are our true leaders. I am proud of each and every one of them and I pray for their safe return home.

I believe the least we can do as a people is to ensure that while our brothers and sisters are away risking their lives fighting terrorism, we will wage our own war and fight corruption on our homefront. This is my pledge and this is my commitment to all of our hometown heroes.

The revolution has already begun, but we need more soldiers to help carry out the mission of eradicating the corruption and nepotism that has plagued our islands for decades. If you are fed up with the status quo and OBN ("Old Boys Network") politics and if you are ready to oust our typical tent-and-table politicians, call me at 483-7361 or e-mail me at edpropst@gmail.com. We need some new blood up at Capital Hill. We need new candidates who have the courage, determination, integrity, and the intellect to make the right decisions. This is our only salvation—real leaders willing to do what is right without succumbing to pressure from the *familia* and the old political guard.

I call on all good citizens to stand up and be counted, and help us derail the OBN train, because it has been headed in the wrong direction for far too long. No more...

Letters to the Editor

Honor and integrity in public office

Lt. Governor,

It is unfortunate and a shame that the second highest elected official representing our homeland is still in office even after being indicted in federal court on charges of the following reference case # CR-08-0020 Conspiracy (Count 1) Wire Fraud (Count 2) Theft concerning Federal Funds (Count 3). These are serious allegations and as our Lt. Governor we believe that it is unjust, unethical, and highly irresponsible of you to continue holding a high position in public office. The right and proper thing to do, is resign or go on leave until the case is resolved. We do believe in our judicial system that anyone charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Not only is this matter such an insult it also makes a mockery of our Government's integrity.

If it were a common ordinary individual he or she will be slapped with the fullest extend of the Law and a NO Bail handed down then thrown in jail to await court hearings and proceedings.

As an advocates and concern citizens in our homeland involved in everyday critical Public Affairs affecting our community we urge you to do the right thing and tender your resignation immediately for you are unjustly, unfaithfully and irresponsibly representing our homeland and is of great insult, disrespect and dishonor to the people of the Commonwealth.

All due respect Mr. Villagomez, this is nothing personal but we hope that you take our statement of concern into consideration and do the right thing for we as taxpayers, voters, and citizens of this great Commonwealth deserve to be represented with honor, respect, and integrity.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano president

Clarifying misinformation regarding nominations to military academies

To my fellow citizens on Rota:

This is to clarify certain misinformation being disseminated among the people, especially the youth, of Rota regarding nominations to the U.S. military academies. Shortly after assuming office as your Resident Representative to the United States, it was my honor to notify all juniors and seniors at all of our high schools on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan about opportunities at the three U.S. military academies. Through the media as well as personal visits to the schools, I told the young men and women that I was looking for students interested in both a first-rate education and the opportunity to serve our country in the military. I informed our students that as the Resident Representative, I had the authority and privilege to nominate students from the CNMI to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I emphasized to our students that attendance at one of the U.S. military academies was a tremendous opportunity for academic and intellectual growth and leadership skill development. Tuition is free and students earn a modest allowance. Upon graduation, students are commissioned as officers in the armed forces and must serve at least five years.

Since my first year in office, I have issued press releases every Fall announcing which service academy was open for a CNMI nomination, and have also utilized high school counselors to provide information to students about the opportunity. The annual deadline to apply for a nomination from my office is Dec. 15. I have proudly nominated all of our students who have expressed an interest. However, once I make my nominations, my authority ends. All nominations are reviewed by the admissions boards of the respective academies who then select those who will receive appointments.

In order to be considered a candidate, one must: be a U.S. citizen, have good moral character, be at least 17 and not past their 23rd birthday on July 1 of the year they would enter the academy. Candidates must also be unmarried, not pregnant and have no dependents.

As your CNMI Resident Representative, it has been an honor for me to nominate our students to the United States military academies and watch some of our fine young men and women grow into outstanding military leaders. It has been a real joy for me to see Joshua C. Dunn and Ulysses C. Mafnas graduate from the Air Force Academy; and Matthew J. Kirschenheiter, Adrian Anthony Rempillo Evangelista and Caroline Claire Lynch graduate from the Naval Academy.

Unfortunately, I have never received an application for nomination from a student from Rota since I have been in office. It is my fervent hope that our students from Rota will be interested in taking advantage of the enormous educational opportunity available at the United States military academies. I will very much welcome their applications for nomination. I want to assure all our youth in Rota and throughout our lovely and peaceful Commonwealth that I treat every single applicant to the academies with fairness and complete objectivity.

Pedro A. Tenorio
Resident Representative

A reputation of thieves and beggars

An Armistice was signed on the last day of World War I at 5am to end hostilities at 11am. U.S., British, and French forces assaulted heavily fortified German bunkers in a blood bath of more casualties and death than the D-Day invasion of Normandy. While Boston and Paris celebrated in the streets, WWI was in full engagement.

Historians have long asked why thousands died needlessly. Generals treated the war as a toy and certain the Armistice would take their toy away, they played with them to the last minute of the last hour regardless of the catastrophic loss of life.

Leadership here can see our economic collapse. The federalization transition period has instilled a sense of fear that the toys they have long played with, will soon be taken away. Why else would Congress will not support the Open Government Act?

Congressional job security must be the rationale behind not supporting a part-time legislature. Unethical political practices are protecting their control of millions of dollars of unaccountable funds in discretionary accounts YEARLY. Mayors have enormous budgets and Municipal Councils are also squandering public funds at the expense of the NMIs indigenous poor.

The administration is even threatening a lawsuit against the U.S., which further damages our case for federal aid. The most recent House of Representatives funding appropriations for ball fields and fishing derbies, is but a typical example.

Congresspersons here know the weak and the lost jump on trains and strong stand up to be counted. The lieutenant governor's grand jury indictment on three felonies along with charges against family and publicly paid conspirators has further tarnished the image of our Commonwealth. At a time the NMI needs to work with the U.S. most, we have an administration with an adversarial, if not belligerent, relationship with the federal government.

Stealing funds happens in the mainland as well, but leaving the lieutenant governor in office, drawing a SALARY, is an embarrassment to the people here and will irreparably defame the CNMI internationally if allowed to continue.

Our reputation in Washington, D.C. has become one of thieves and beggars due to the actions of a few. Residents are embarrassed by this shameful conduct, but the only shame on residents would be to not do something about it.

I am asking the lieutenant governor to resign out of decency and love for the Northern Marianas Islands and the wonderful people here, if he does not, the governor must remove him from office or it is a callous disregard of his duty.

Removing the lieutenant governor should be Ben Fitial's last act in office, as decency demands the governor's resignation as well.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Business

Wall Street bailout aid questioned at Fed event

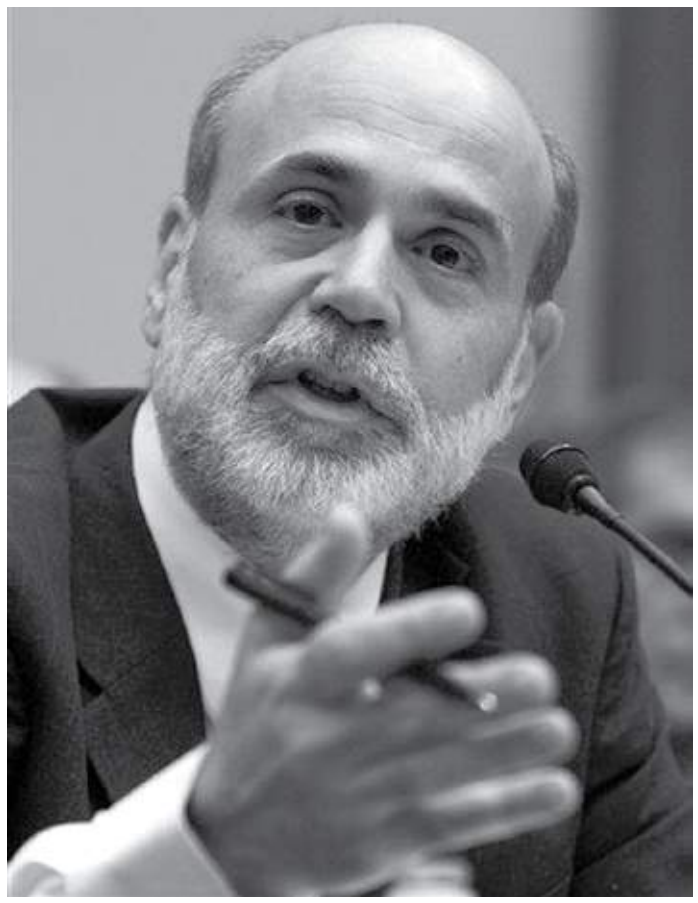
By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP)—Do Washington policymakers listen too much to Wall Street? A possible bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, on the heels of similar action involving investment firm Bear Stearns, seems to send a loud signal to financial companies that the government will clean up their messes.

That's the feeling of some analysts and academics here Saturday, the final day of a high-profile economics conference. The Federal Reserve's handling of the worst financial crisis to hit the country in decades spurred much debate.

"The Fed listens to Wall Street," said Willem Buiter, professor of European political economy at the London School of Economics and Political Science. "Throughout the 12 months of the crisis, it is difficult to avoid the impression that the Fed is too close to the financial markets and leading financial institutions, and too responsive to their special pleadings, to make the right decisions for the economy as a whole," he wrote in a paper presented to the conference.

Critics like Buiter worry that the Fed's unprecedented actions—including financial backing for JP-Morgan Chase & Co.'s takeover of Bear Stearns Cos.—are putting taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars of potential losses. They also say it encourages "moral hazard," that is, allowing financial companies to gamble more recklessly in the future.



AP

Gas prices posted at Gas Depot gas station in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008. The average U.S. retail gasoline price was $3.799 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, who spoke to the conference on Friday, defended the Fed's actions, saying they were "necessary and justified" to avert a meltdown of the entire financial system, which would have devastated the U.S. economy.

Yet, Bernanke also acknowledged that mitigating moral hazard is one of the critical challenges policymakers face as they weigh steps—including strengthening regulation—to make the financial system better able to withstand shocks down the road.

"If no countervailing actions are taken, what would be perceived as an implicit expansion of the safety net could exacerbate the problem of `too big to fail,' possibly resulting in excessive risk-taking and yet greater systemic risk in the future," Bernanke said.

At the start of the conference, on Thursday night, Thomas Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, which sponsored the forum, gave Bernanke a white hard hat—like those worn by construction workers—in case he needed protection from critics during the sessions.

Bernanke: Financial crisis taking toll on economy

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Friday the financial crisis that has pounded the country—coupled with higher inflation—is taking a toll on the economy and poses a major challenge to Fed policymakers as they try to restore stability.

"Although we have seen improved functioning in some markets, the financial storm that reached gale force" around this time last year "has not yet subsided, and its effects on the broader economy are becoming apparent in the form of softening economic activity and rising unemployment," Bernanke said in a speech to a high-profile economics conference here.

While Bernanke welcomed the recent drops in oil and other commodities' prices, and believes inflation will moderate this year and next, the Fed chief also warned the inflation outlook remains highly uncertain.

The Fed, he said, would monitor the situation closely and will "act as necessary" to make sure that inflation doesn't get out of hand.

The current financial and economic environment is one of the most challenging to Fed policymakers "in memory," he acknowledged.

Given those dueling economic cross-currents- weak economic growth and higher inflation—many economists believe the Fed will leave rates where they are at its next meeting on Sept. 16, and probably through the rest of this year.

"They won't act until the coast is clear on financial stability and the state of the economy," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics Inc. Many fear the economy will hit a rough patch later this year as the bracing effect of the government's tax-rebate checks fades.

Wall Street was buoyed by Bernanke's remarks, a dip in oil prices and growing speculation that Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. could be sold. In afternoon trading, the Dow rose 135.49 to 11,565.70, the Standard & Poor's 500 index added 7.45 to 1,285.17, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 19.41 to 2,399.79.

Bush blames Democrats for high gas prices

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—President Bush on Saturday blamed the Democratic-led Congress for the high cost of gasoline and renewed his call for expanded offshore drilling to increase U.S. oil supplies.

"To reduce pressure on prices, we need to increase the supply of oil, especially oil produced here at home," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Congress left for the August recess without a solution to fuel prices. In a bid to force a vote on offshore drilling, Republicans blocked Democratic proposals to use the nation's petroleum reserve, curb oil speculation and require oil companies to drill on already leased federal lands.

The president, who is vacationing at his Texas ranch, said Americans support expanded exploration of oil in areas that include the Outer Continental Shelf. The shelf is the shallow, sloping land that stretches for miles undersea between the coastline and the deep ocean.

New oil drilling is only allowed now in federal waters in the western Gulf of Mexico and off Alaska.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., signaled last week the Democrats' position could be shifting. With energy legislation to be introduced after Congress returns, lawmakers will be able to "consider opening portions of the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling, with appropriate safeguards, and without taxpayer subsidies to Big Oil," she said.

AP

Gas prices posted at Gas Depot gas station in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008. The average U.S. retail gasoline price was $3.799 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

But Bush said the Democrats are pushing a plan that would reduce domestic production and drain the country's emergency oil supply.

"Democratic leaders know that these counterproductive proposals will not become law," Bush said. "They need to stop standing in the way of expanding domestic production and take meaningful steps now to address the pain caused by high energy prices."

Bush said offshore drilling can be done in an "environmentally responsible" way. Experts believe production from below the ocean can produce nearly 10 years' worth of America's current annual oil output, he said.

"When Congress returns they should remove this restriction so we can get these vast oil resources from the ocean floor to your gas tank," Bush said.

The president also said Congress should lift a ban that blocks access to oil shale on federal lands. Oil shale, a sedimentary rock, can be mined and processed to produce oil.

And lawmakers should extend tax credits to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar, Bush said.

Oil prices fall over $6 on stronger dollar

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices tumbled more than $6 a barrel Friday—the biggest one-day percentage plunge in nearly four years—after a rebounding dollar and a Russian troop pullback in Georgia sparked another frenzied sell-off.

Crude's nosedive wiped out all the gains from the previous day's big rally and reaffirmed the belief that high energy prices and a softening global economy are still cutting into consumer demand for fossil fuels in the U.S. and overseas.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery fell $6.59, or 5.43 percent, to settle at $114.59 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

It was crude's largest single-day price drop percentage-wise since Dec. 27, 2004, when prices dropped 6.47 percent. In dollar terms, it was oil's steepest one-day slide since Jan. 17, 1991, just after the start of the Gulf War. Crude prices had risen for three straight days, including an almost $6 rally on Thursday.

Merrill Lynch settlement with SEC worth up to $7B

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators said Friday that investors who bought risky auction-rate securities from Merrill Lynch & Co. before the market for those bonds collapsed will be able to recover up to $7 billion under a new agreement.

The largest U.S. brokerage will buy back the securities from thousands of investors under a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and other state regulators over its role in selling the high-risk bonds to retail investors. Under that deal, announced Thursday, Merrill agreed to hasten its voluntary buyback plan by repurchasing $10 billion to $12 billion of the securities from investors by Jan. 2.

Merrill also agreed to pay a $125 million fine in a separate accord with state regulators.

The $330 billion market for auction-rate securities collapsed in mid-February.

The SEC's estimate of a $7 billion recovery is based on its projection of the eventual amount of the bonds that will be cashed in by the affected investors, who bought them before Feb. 13. The $10 billion to $12 billion is the total amount that Merrill is committing to buy back.

Nation

Obama introduces running mate Biden

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Barack Obama introduced Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware on Saturday as "a leader ready to step in and be president," and the newly named running mate quickly converted his debut on the Democratic ticket into a slashing attack on Republican John McCain.

The GOP presidential contender will have to "figure out which of the seven kitchen tables to sit at" when considering his own economic future, said Biden, jabbing at the man he nevertheless called his personal friend.

It was a reference to McCain's recent inartful admission—in a time of economic uncertainty—that he was not sure how many homes he owns.

Before a vast crowd spilling out from the front of the Old State Capitol, Obama said Biden was "what many others pretend to be—a statesman with sound judgment who doesn't have to hide behind bluster to keep America strong."

Democrats coalesced quickly around the 47-year-old Obama's selection of a seasoned veteran of three decades in the Senate - a choice meant to provide foreign policy heft to the party's ticket for the fall campaign against McCain and the Republicans.

Polls show Obama rates relatively poorly against McCain on foreign policy issues, and Biden is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with extensive experience in that area.

McCain called Biden a "wise selection." But McCain indicated that he believed there was still plenty to criticize the Obama-Biden ticket on foreign policy.

"I know that Joe will campaign well for Senator Obama, and so I think he's going to be very formidable," McCain told CBS News. "I've always respected Joe Biden, but I disagreed with him from the time he voted against the first Gulf War to his position where he said you had to break Iraq up into three different countries. We really have different approaches to many national security issues."

Biden, a 65-year-old congressional veteran, emerged as Obama's choice after a secretive selection process that reviewed at least a half-dozen contenders—but evidently not Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former first lady who was Obama's tenacious rival across the primaries and caucuses of winter and spring.

Obama made a symbolic choice for the site of the ticket's first joint appearance.

It was a brutally cold winter day more than a year ago when he stood outside the historic structure in the Illinois capital to launch his quest for the White House.

He returned this day in sunshine, the party's improbable nominee-in-waiting, a black man in his first Senate term who outdistanced a crowded field of far better-known and more experienced rivals for the nomination.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., and his vice presidential running mate Sen. Joe Biden D-Del., appear at a campaign rally Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in Springfield, Ill.

Clinton backers split over Biden as VP choice

DENVER (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton's supporters had mixed reactions Saturday to the selection of Joe Biden as the Democrats' vice presidential candidate.

Some realized a long time ago that Barack Obama, the party's presumptive nominee for president, was not going to pick Clinton as his running mate. Others held out hope until they awoke to the announcement Saturday morning.

Susan Castner, a Clinton delegate from Portland, Ore., said she sees some of Clinton's qualities in Biden. She likes his experience, especially on foreign policy.

"It really kind of humanizes Barack Obama," Castner said. "He has this air of perfection, and Joe Biden is more down to earth."

"I love his passion," Castner said of Biden. "I like him a lot."

Obama announced Saturday that Biden, a senator from Delaware for the past 36 years, would be his running mate, passing over Clinton, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine and Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh.

Clinton issued a statement Saturday praising Obama's decision and calling Biden "an exceptionally strong, experienced leader and devoted public servant."

Some of her supporters were less charitable.

"It's a total diss to Sen. Clinton, in my opinion," said Diane Mantouvalos, co-founder of the Just Say No Deal Coalition. "It just speaks volumes about how Barack Obama doesn't stand for anything."

Mantouvalos, of Miami, is part of an Internet movement of Clinton supporters who refuse to back Obama, regardless of pleas from Clinton herself. Mantouvalos is in Denver, where the Democratic National Convention is scheduled to start Monday, stoking anti-Obama sentiment.

She said the selection of a Washington insider undermines Obama's call for change.

"It was a desperate move," Mantouvalos said.

John West, a Clinton volunteer during the primaries, said he's not excited about Biden, but he had little hope that Clinton would get the nod.

"Most people feel that if she wanted to press to be vice president, she would have made a bigger push for it," said West, of Chicago.

West has been working with Clinton delegates to have her name placed in nomination at the convention, with a roll call vote—a vote that was agreed to by both Obama and Clinton.

Forecasters downgrade Fay to a tropical depression

APALACHICOLA, Fla. (AP)—Tropical Storm Fay was downgraded to a tropical depression Saturday night, but cities along the Gulf Coast were still bracing for heavy rain.

As a tropical storm, Fay set a record with four landfalls in Florida and was blamed for at least 11 deaths there and another in Georgia, emergency officials said.

Though the storm weakened as it traveled inland Saturday, with maximum sustained winds of about 35 mph, cities from Pensacola to storm-wary New Orleans were still preparing for possible flooding.

"People automatically assume that if it weakens, the hazards go down with it, but in the case of rainfall, it's not a function of wind speed," said Jamie Rhome of the National Hurricane Center. "Slow moving systems dump a lot of rainfall."

At 11 p.m. EDT, the tropical depression was 60 miles northeast of Mobile, Ala., and moving west at 8 mph.

The forecast indicates the depression could slow in the next few days and possibly stall over southern Mississippi or eastern Louisiana, Rhome said.

Thousands of homes and businesses in Florida were inundated with flood waters this week as the storm worked its way north from its first landfall in the Florida Keys and zigzagged across the peninsula.

Fay's center made its fourth landfall early Saturday about 15 miles north-northeast of Apalachicola, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Clashing views of MIT grad suspected of terrorism

NEW YORK (AP)—To supporters, Aafia Siddiqui is a devout Muslim, a scholar educated at MIT and Brandeis, who fled to Pakistan after 9/11 because of anti-Muslim sentiment.

To U.S. authorities, she is a reminder of the constant threat of terrorism, someone willing to blow up landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty.

Siddiqui, 36, now sits in a federal lockup in Brooklyn, nursing bullet wounds suffered in a shoot-out last month in Afghanistan.

Prosecutors say she was shot by a U.S. Army officer after she grabbed his rifle from the floor and pointed it at an Army captain, crying "Allah Akbar!"

One of her lawyers, Elaine Whitfield Sharp, said witnesses have said Siddiqui never lunged for a weapon and that they never heard rifle shots.

According to an FBI affidavit, Siddiqui had been arrested a day before the shooting outside an Afghan governor's compound carrying bottles and jars of chemicals, papers describing U.S. landmarks, and instructions on making chemical weapons.

Sharp maintains that Siddiqui has been continuously in U.S. custody ever since she was kidnapped in Pakistan in 2003.

A government official briefed on the case told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the list of targets included the Empire State Building, New York's Grand Central Terminal and the Statue of Liberty.

However, the official described the group of targets as a "wish list" and said there doesn't appear to be evidence of a credible plot to attack any landmarks. Nonetheless, the official described her as a fanatical supporter of al-Qaida.

ACROSS THE NATION

Small plane crash near Moab, Utah, kills 10

MOAB, Utah (AP)—A small plane crashed and burned shortly after takeoff, killing everyone on board, including the pilot and nine people who had spent the day working at a skin cancer clinic in remote community. The twin-engine Beech King Air A-100 crashed shortly after takeoff Friday evening from Canyonlands Field airport, 18 miles northwest of Moab. It hit the ground in nearby hills, flattened and exploded on impact, authorities said. Emergency responders rushed to the site to search for possible survivors and fight a brush fire that was apparently sparked by the crash. The wreckage was little more than a pile of twisted, blackened shards of metal. Most of the debris on the otherwise-barren stretch of land was closely clustered and marked by yellow tape. One propeller was thrown about 20 feet from its engine. "It's just weird. I mean, something happened to make this guy veer left off the runway," Grand County Sheriff James Nyland said. National Transportation Safety Board investigator Tealeye Cornejo said she couldn't see how anyone could have survived the crash. "The fire was so intense, there's not a lot of (the plane) left," she said.

Man, pregnant girlfriend charged in Md. standoff

BALTIMORE (AP)—A man who held police at bay during a two-day Maryland motel standoff and his pregnant girlfriend, who claimed to be his hostage, both face charges, state police said Saturday. James Prevatt III, 26, and Rene Reynolds, 21, both of Moncks Corner, S.C., were captured Friday at the Hancock, Md., motel that officers had surrounded for two days. Prevatt threatened to kill officers and Reynolds during the standoff, which ended without injury when police burst into the room after Prevatt opened the door for a food delivery. He faces charges of theft, threat of arson with an explosive device and drug possession. Reynolds faces charges of theft, conspiracy to threaten arson and drug possession.

911 system knocked out in parts of SoCal

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The sheriff's department in southern California's Orange County says the 911 emergency call system for much of the county has been repaired after an outage that shut it down for 90 minutes. Sheriff's Lt. Ted Boyne says there were no reports of serious problems or unanswered emergency calls during the outage early Saturday. He says callers could still dial two regular business numbers to reach dispatchers. The lieutenant says the outage was caused by changes involved in the introduction of a new 657 area code assigned to the region. He says the sheriff's department contacted AT&T, which fixed the problem.

Asia

US Ambassador to China: Release US protesters

BEIJING (AP)—Washington's top diplomat in China pressed the government to immediately free foreign activists jailed for protesting at the Olympics, and criticized Beijing on Sunday for failing to use the games to show "greater tolerance and openness."

The blunt criticism came just hours before the end of the games, which have largely gone to the plan of China's leaders, who wanted a smooth-running event that would increase the country's international prestige.

Chinese police have sentenced at least 10 foreigners to 10 days of detention for protesting during the games, including eight Americans, a German and a British citizen. The activists were among small groups of demonstrators who have sought to raise China's tough rule in Tibet, its rights record and other issues during the Beijing Games.

Most protesters were quickly dragged away by security forces and, in the first week of the 17-day event, escorted out of China within days. But some activists caught in the past week have been kept in custody under rules that allow officials to hold them without charge for up to 14 days.

British and U.S. officials are seeking the quick release of their citizens.

U.S. consular officials met with eight detained Americans on Friday, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. They had not made any claims of maltreatment at the hands of Chinese officials, the statement said.

AP

A plain clothed security official, bottom right, grabs a Tibetan flag from three pro-Tibet activists as they gesture in protest opposite the National Stadium, where the Olympic athletics competition had just finished, Beijing, early Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008. Swarms of plainclothes police took away four foreign activists protesting Chinese rule over Tibet–the latest in a series of such demonstrations during the Olympics.

Ambassador Clark T. Randt Jr. pressed the Chinese government on Saturday to immediately release the Americans, the statement said. U.S. officials would continue to raise concerns about the detentions with senior Chinese officials.

"We are disappointed that China has not used the occasion of the Olympics to demonstrate greater tolerance and openness," the statement said.

It urged China to show respect for human rights, freedom of speech and religion.

Britain's Foreign Office also issued a statement confirming the detention of a British citizen and urging the Chinese government "to respect its commitment to freedom of expression."

Calls to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs went unanswered Sunday, and the Public Security Bureau, which handles internal security, declined to make any immediate comment on the embassy statement.

Under pressure to address human rights and free speech concerns, China said it would allow protests during the games in three designated areas. But none of the more than 70 applications to demonstrate were approved, and some people were arrested as they sought the permits, rights groups and relatives said.

Pakistan's ruling coalition on verge of collapse

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's ruling coalition teetered on the brink of collapse as the two main partners squabbled over a successor to ousted President Pervez Musharraf.

Former Prime Minster Nawaz Sharif, who heads the junior partner in the coalition, demanded the dominant Pakistan People's Party slash the president's powers before he would support its candidate.

Asif Ali Zardari, head of the PPP and widower of the party's assassinated leader Benazir Bhutto, agreed Saturday to run for the presidency.

Sharif also pushed forward the deadline for restoration of dozens of judges sacked by Musharraf—another key issue dividing the two main parties since they forced the president from power less than a week ago.

Still pressure was building for the two sides to end differences that appeared increasingly irreconcilable.

A Sharif aide, Pervez Rasheed, told The Associated Press on Sunday that "general opinion" in his party favored an exit from the coalition and that party leaders would meet on Monday to decide.

One of those leaders, Javed Hashmi, said Sunday that he was willing to run in the Sept. 6 election to succeed Musharraf if his party asks him to.

Presidential elections by parliament were set for Sept. 6 and the political infighting is a distraction from militant violence flaring in the volatile northwest, where 37 insurgents were killed Saturday in retaliation for a string of deadly suicide bombings.

Though Zardari is a longtime Musharraf critic, he would likely continue the former general's support for the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

But Zardari's climb to power would dismay many in this nation of 160 million who view him as a symbol of corruption that tainted its last experiment with civilian rule in the 1990s.

He won the nickname "Mr. 10 Percent" for alleged graft during his wife's turns as prime minister.

Despite the backing of the PPP, his election is far from certain.

Sharif, who heads the second-largest party in parliament, was one of Bhutto's bitter rivals and has been threatening to bolt in a struggle over power.

He demanded after meeting with Zardiri's lieutenants Saturday that the PPP agree to sharply reduce the powers of the new president before he'd support their candidate.

Sharif wants the head of state to be deprived of the constitutional right to dissolve parliament or to appoint chiefs of the armed forces—but Zardari's name was thrown into the race without any such guarantee.

Sharif, ousted by Musharraf during his 1999 coup, also pushed up a middle-of-the week deadline for the restoration of judges fired by Musharraf late last year to avoid challenges to the former strongman's rule.

He wants an agreement by Monday that all—including former chief justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry—will be back on the bench, saying a surprise Sept. 6 presidential election date forced him to push up his deadline.

Rights group: 78 Afghans killed; US to investigate

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Scores of Afghan civilians who had gathered in a small village for the memorial ceremony of a militia commander were killed when U.S. and Afghan soldiers launched an attack in the middle of the night, officials and villagers said Saturday.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the early Friday operation in western Afghanistan and said most of the dead were civilians. The U.S. coalition, however, said it believed only five civilians were among those killed and said that it would investigate the Afghan claims.

An Afghan human rights group that visited the site of the operation said Saturday that at least 78 people were killed. The Ministry of Interior has said 76 civilians died, including 50 children under the age of 15, though the Ministry of Defense said 25 militants and five civilians were killed.

Meanwhile, a school principal and police official said Afghan soldiers tried to hand out food and clothes Saturday in Azizabad—the village in Herat province where the operation took place. But villagers started throwing stones at the soldiers, who then fired on the villagers and wounded up to eight people.

An Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission researcher visited Azizabad in Herat province and found that 15 houses had been destroyed and others were damaged, said Ahmad Nader Nadery, the group's commissioner.

Nadery said the information was preliminary and the group would publish a final report. He did not provide a breakdown of how many were civilians or militants, and said 20 women were among the dead and that children also were killed.

Nadery confirmed reports from villagers that a memorial ceremony was being held for a deputy militia commander allied with the Afghan police named Timor Shah, who had died in a personal dispute several months ago. Because of the memorial, relatives and friends from outside Azizabad were staying overnight in village homes, he said.

An AP photographer who visited Azizabad on Saturday said he saw at least 20 graves, including some graves with multiple bodies in them. He said he saw around 20 houses that had been destroyed.

Originally the U.S. coalition said the battle killed 30 militants, including a wanted Taliban commander, but U.S. coalition spokeswoman Rumi Nielson-Green said Saturday that five civilians—two women and three children connected to the militants—were among the dead.

The U.S. said it would investigate.

RP rebels say peace process could collapse if military offensive continues

CAMP DARAPANAN, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels on Saturday urged the Philippine government to halt a military offensive they say threatens a yearslong peace process and escalates violence in the troubled south.

The military has launched ground and air attacks on rebel positions in response to a guerrilla rampage Monday in which 37 people were shot or hacked to death in several villages.

Al-Haj Murad, chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, told a news conference at a tightly guarded rebel base near southern Cotabato city that the military has started indiscriminate attacks while pursuing rebel commanders blamed for leading the rampage.

The rebels, who have been fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades, have said they regret a recent upsurge in violence and that the commanders responsible acted on their own. Murad said peace talks should resume, but repeated earlier rejections of a government demand that suspects be turned over to face the criminal justice system.

"We cannot subject our members to the laws of the government," Murad said from a stage where four rebels armed with M-16 rifles and grenade launchers stood guard. "We are a revolutionary force."

He suggested that the correct forum to deal with the rebel commanders should be a cease-fire committee involving the government, the rebels and an international truce monitoring group.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro repeated the government's demand. He accused rebel leaders of engaging in "extortion ... intransigence and arrogance" in their statements since the rampage when they should be showing "good faith to try to stop the conflict from escalating" by turning over the commanders.

Uprooted civilians beg Pakistan, militants to talk

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Some of the women were eating lunch, while others were busy making bread.

Then, the bombs fell like rain.

Pakistan's latest military offensive against Taliban-led insurgents in its northwest had reached 60-year-old Haya Bibi and her extended family. They soon abandoned their mud homes in the Bajur tribal region and joined an exodus of tens of thousands of civilians walking and driving across rugged terrain to escape a 17-day operation some now call a war.

Bibi and some 45 relatives have spent the past week in sweltering, mosquito-infested tents in Pir Piai village near Peshawar city in one of more than 20 relief camps the government says are for the displaced.

Like others among the nearly 1,000 people at this camp, Bibi won't utter a critical word about the masked militants in her area. Pressed on whether she blames the government or the Taliban for her current state, she diplomatically says both, and requests the two sides try to work things out peacefully.

"We are the sufferers," a tearful Bibi says, fingering prayer beads while surrounded by a crowd of nodding relatives. "We don't want the fighting."

World

US aid ship arrives at southern Georgian port

POTI, Georgia (AP)—Thousands of Georgians demanded that Russian troops leave the outskirts of this strategic Black Sea port on Saturday and took to the streets in protest, while a top Russian general said his country's forces would keep patrolling the area.

The comments by deputy head of the general staff Col.-Gen. Anatoly Nogovitsyn, reported by Russian news agencies, showed that despite protests from the United States, France and Britain, Russia was confident enough to occupy whatever part of Georgia it deemed necessary.

"Russian military: You are not a liberating military, you are an occupying force!" one man shouted at the Poti protest. Banners read "Say No to War" and "Russia go home."

On Sunday, a U.S. Navy warship carrying humanitarian aid for Georgia anchored in the southern Georgian port of Batumi. It was the first of five American ships scheduled to arrive this week with supplies.

The McFaul is loaded with 72 pallets of humanitarian aid, and is also outfitted with an array of weaponry, including Tomahawk cruise missiles. U.S. Air Force flights that have brought in more than 1 million pounds of humanitarian relief.

On Friday, Russia said it had pulled back forces from Georgia in accordance with a EU-brokered cease-fire agreement.

"There are very specific requirements for Russian withdrawal. Putting up permanent facilities and checkpoints are inconsistent with the agreement. We are in contact with the various parties to obtain clarification," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

Survivor says wing dipped sharply before crash

AP

Bodies from the Spanair airliner crash lie on the floor of a make shift morgue in Madrid Thursday Aug. 21, 2008. The Spanish airliner crashed while take off from Madrid's airport Wednesday killing 153 people aboard.

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A woman who survived this week's devastating plane crash in Madrid said Saturday the aircraft struggled to gain altitude and one of its wings dipped sharply before the plane started wobbling and went down.

Ligia Palomino Riveros, a 42-year-old Colombian-born Spaniard, also told The Associated Press that after a technical malfunction forced the pilot to abandon a first takeoff attempt, she thought the airline was going to switch planes.

She said two buses were brought in next to the Spanair MD-82 bound for the Canary Islands and she assumed these were to take passengers to another plane. They did not.

Only 19 people survived Wednesday's crash at Madrid's airport, which killed 153 people. Palomino Riveros, who suffered a broken leg and a broken rib, was traveling with her husband Jose Flores, who also survived, and his sister, who died.

Around 50 bodies have been identified so far. Many were burned beyond recognition and forensic teams have been using DNA techniques. Families traveled Saturday to a Madrid cemetery, where the scientific work is being done, to identify their loved ones and take them home.

Palomino Riveros sounded tired and weak as she spoke in a telephone interview from her hospital bed. She said she had heard nothing to suggest that an engine exploded, as some press reports have said.

The plane crashed, burned and largely disintegrated on its second takeoff attempt, after Spanair dealt with what it has called a minor problem in an air temperature gauge near the cockpit. The problem was detected while the plane was taxiing, and the aircraft returned to the gate.

Islamic militants control key Somali port

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Islamic militants said Saturday they had seized control of Somalia's third largest city after three days of fighting that left about 70 people dead and saw thousands flee Kismayo.

The Islamic courts movement, which controlled the capital, Mogadishu, and much of the south for six months in 2006, said it wrested control of the southern port city of Kismayo from clan militias.

About 70 people were killed during the fighting which started Wednesday and 170 were wounded, said Dr. Ali Hassan of Kismayo Hospital.

Nicole Engelbrecht, a spokeswoman with the International Committee of the Red Cross, said Saturday another 135 people were reportedly injured in fighting in Afmadow, 70 miles northwest of Kismayo. The ICRC delivered two tons of medical supplies to Kismayo Hospital Saturday, she said.

In a separate development, two foreign journalists—a Canadian woman and an Australian man—were kidnapped while traveling near Mogadishu on Saturday, Somali government officials said.

A report on the Web site of Canada's National Post, identified the woman as 27-year-old Amanda Lindhout. The report quoted her father, John Lindhout, as saying she had recently arrived in the country with an Australian friend who was also kidnapped.

The report said Amanda Lindhout had contacted Global National, a Canadian newscast, by e-mail saying she had packaged segments from Ethiopia and Kenya and was going to Somalia to "report on the deteriorating security situation as well as the food crisis."

Health & Fitness

Gums and teeth give clues about what's going on inside your body

By RANIT MISHORI
Special to the Washington Post

Ranit Mishori is a family physician and faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine at the Georgetown University School of Medicine.

The way to a person's heart is through his stomach, the adage goes. But researchers now think the way to a healthy heart might be through your gums and teeth.

Evidence suggests that the healthier they are, the stronger and less disease-prone the heart is. If you don't floss or brush, you might be setting yourself up not just for gum disease but also for heart disease.

The link between what's happening in your mouth and in the rest of your body goes further still: Gum disease might be a kind of early warning system, with poor oral health linked to diabetes, kidney disease, preterm labor, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease and even certain types of cancer.

"A lot of research studies are coming out that seem to suggest some possible link or associations" between oral infection and systemic disorders, says Sally Cram, a periodontist in the District of Columbia and consumer adviser for the American Dental Association.

There's a certain logic, of course, to the idea that your mouth—your body's key opening to the outside—would be a harbinger of bodily health. Yet the connection is one that many people, even medical professionals, often overlook.

Patients tend to minimize oral health, treating mouth issues as merely "dental." Professionals echo this artificial dichotomy: Dentists and doctors don't really talk to each other; they don't attend the same conferences; they don't read the same journals.

But recent research indicating a link between their disciplines is attracting attention from both doctors and dentists. Several studies show a startling correlation between gum health and atherosclerosis, a condition underlying much heart disease: The worse a person's gum disease, the narrower that person's arteries due to a buildup of plaque. This holds even for young, healthy adults who have no other symptoms of heart disease.

Many questions remain about the nature of the body-mouth connection.

In gum disease (called gingivitis in the early stages, before it develops into full-blown periodontal disease), the tissue that surrounds the bones supporting the teeth become inflamed or infected. Often this results from the accumulation of bacteria in the plaque under the tissue holding the teeth. The bacteria release toxins and other chemicals that begin to destroy the bone. Scientists believe they circulate and cause damage elsewhere in the body; exactly how remains unclear.

"It is like setting up a garbage dump on the edge of a river. You wouldn't be surprised if the lake downstream ended up polluted with the garbage from the dump," Vincent J. Iacono said in 2005, when he was president of the American Academy of Periodontology.

When Maurizio Tonetti, chair of the University of Connecticut's Division of Periodontology, conducted a study looking into whether reversing the production of bacteria and toxins in the mouth would benefit patients who had atherosclerosis, the results were encouraging. He reported in the New England Journal of Medicine last year that patients who underwent an intensive, six-month program of treatment for gum disease emerged not only with healthier gums but also with improved endothelial function—that is, better function of the lining of the blood vessels. No, this does not necessarily mean better vascular function overall, but the experts say that these findings merit further study.

As does a possible link between gum infections and preterm labor. Nearly 13 percent of births in the United States are considered preterm (occurring before 37 weeks of gestation), and of these, almost half occur without explanation. This has prompted researchers to look at the role of gum disease.

Observational studies show rates of preterm birth are higher for women with severe gum disease than those with milder or no such disease. A recent review in the journal American Family Physician noted that studies of nearly 15,000 women in "identified 24 studies demonstrating a positive relationship between periodontitis and preterm birth, low birth weight, or both."

Gum disease may also be implicated in a "small, but significant" increase in overall cancer risk for men, according to a recent study in The Lancet Oncology. The authors linked gum disease to a higher chance of lung, kidney, pancreatic and blood cancers. A similar pattern is emerging for kidney disease and Alzheimer's. But as with heart disease and preterm labor, the question of what causes what has not been definitely answered.

In diabetes, however, the body-mouth connection is clear-cut. Diabetics who have uncontrolled gum disease, Cram said, "have a much harder time (than other diabetics) controlling their blood sugar levels." The reverse, she noted, is also true: People with uncontrolled diabetes are about "three to four times at greater risk of developing periodontal disease." The cycle is very hard to break.

You would think that physicians would be telling their diabetic patients to make regular dental visits to head off gum disease and that dentists would be advising patients who develop persistent gum disease to be tested for diabetes. But neither group of practitioners has been especially good at making the connection.

Similarly, despite growing evidence of a link between preterm labor and gum disease, only 22 to 34 percent of U.S. women consult a dentist during pregnancy, according to a 2001 report in the Journal of the American Dental Association; other studies also show lower use of dental services during pregnancy. Among women who develop mouth problems during pregnancy, only 50 percent seek help; many of the rest worry that mouth treatment may be harmful to their babies.

Experts such as Caswell A. Evans, director of the National Oral Health Initiative, think it is past time for patients to reconsider how they think about the dentist vis-a-vis the doctor. We minimize many mouth ailments, he says, shrugging off "blood on (our) toothbrush." And dental patients need to get past thinking of their dentist primarily as a cosmetic practitioner—a whitener and straightener of teeth—or a "fireman" to be called only when there's extreme tooth pain.

Regular visits to a dentist can make the mouth an early warning system for a variety of problems. Sores or fungus in the mouth, for example, are often the very first indications of infection by HIV, the virus that causes AIDS,

See GUMS on Page 19

Life & Style

Behind the brief fairy tale

By BOOTH MOORE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Gerren Taylor's first time on the runway was during Fashion Week in 2003. She was 12.

Gerren Taylor was still playing with Barbie dolls when she walked the runway for the first time at Los Angeles Fashion Week in 2003. Just 12 at the time, she was the youngest person ever to be represented by the runway division of L.A. Models. Although most agencies require girls to be 14, it's not unheard of for 12-year-olds to get work. Actress Milla Jovovich made the cover of the Italian fashion magazine Lei at 12, and Brooke Shields, Gisele Bundchen and Kate Moss were stars before they turned 16.

With her long legs and confident walk, Taylor looked as though she would follow in their footsteps. Then, during Richard Tyler's show, the last one of the week that April, she stepped onto the runway in a wedding gown and stumbled hard. She tripped once, then again on the train that was in front of her, because the dress was accidentally put on backward. When her eyes welled up with tears, even the most hardened fashionistas wanted to give her a hug.

I wrote about that moment, the one that made Taylor a novelty—the 12-year-old, plucked from the crowd on an L.A. street corner, who tripped on the high-fashion runway. It made for a good story. Other people thought so too. Oprah Winfrey came calling, and designers lined up to book her.

That September, she went to New York to see if she could make it on the world stage, and walked in the Tommy Hilfiger, Betsey Johnson and Tracy Reese shows. Hilfiger even paid to have her teeth fixed, telling Taylor she was going to be a top model. Making enough money for college seemed a sure bet after she became the first African American in a Marc Jacobs ad campaign. "We're all expecting her to be a big star," Jacobs said.

Then she disappeared. A year later, Taylor didn't book a single runway job. The advertising work dried up too, and so did the magazine editorials. She went to Europe to try her luck at the fashion weeks there, but was told by booking agents in Paris that 38-inch hips on a pole-thin 6-foot frame made her too big to model. (They wanted her to diet down to 35 inches.) In less than two years, her career had come to a halt.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
The film "America the Beautiful" follows Gerren Taylor's brief career and explores our obsession with physical beauty.

That's where the story ends for most. Fashion designers and editors move on to the next girl and the next. It's just the way of an industry built on selling a fantasy that depends on novelty and impossible ideals. Women try to intellectualize the constant stream of airbrushed images, skinny models and too-expensive products, but the allure is too strong. So we go on searching for some notion of beauty that is always just out of reach. And we don't think much about what happened to last year's model.

Except with Taylor, documentary filmmaker Darryl Roberts was there to pick up where the industry left off.

His film "America the Beautiful" (in limited release), follows the arc of her brief career, trying to understand why we are obsessed with physical beauty. We see Taylor and her mom, Michele Gerren, struggling to navigate the sexualized world of fashion, while arguing about whether it's too soon for the young model to start wearing a bra. We hear from Taylor's school principal, who says with prescience, "How can you comprehend at 12 or 13 that you're going to be discarded?"

Then, in 2005, when Taylor returns from Europe humiliated, we watch her hit rock bottom. Agonizing over the flaws she perceives in her pancake flat stomach, her flawless face looks straight into the camera and she says, "I'm ugly."

She had written herself off at 15.

Today, Taylor is about to start her senior year of high school in Santa Monica, Calif., where she's a volleyball star. She never did make enough money for college, but she's applying anyway, to study psychology. Some kids would have gone to therapy to cope, but Taylor went to church and found support from peers who had the same issues with their bodies, even as they had envied hers in teen magazines.

"It was going so well. Then when it stopped I didn't know what I had done wrong," she said over a recent lunch, her Yorkie, Arlington, sleeping at her feet. "I was always so nice to people; I never turned my back on people."

Of course, she knows now that success in fashion has nothing to do with being nice.

Taylor is still stunningly beautiful, with perfect skin and legs so long, they stick out from the other side of the table. She is wearing jeans that are a little short, even with the bottom seams ripped out, a tank top, sheer shirt and ballet flats. Her mom is close by, as she always was, making sure Taylor wasn't wearing anything too revealing on the runway or risking a future paycheck by saying on camera that she doesn't like soy milk.

"Sometimes I felt uncomfortable," Taylor remembers. "But I didn't think there was anything I could do. I was scared to say I didn't want to wear something, to be that girl who had an attitude or didn't cooperate. I liked having my mom there so she could say it."

It's difficult to know why Taylor's career ended so soon—if she got lost in the politics of moving from one agency to another, or whether at 6 feet and a size 4 after she grew into her teenage body, she was too big for industry standards.

"That started in New York, calling her obese at a size 4," says her mother, an amateur model herself at age 19.

"Having that be a rumor was hard," the teenager says. "I thought I needed to diet. . . . I was doing all this to make my mom proud, to make money, and all of a sudden it stopped. I would just eat salad. I didn't want to go to the beach because of my stretch marks."

Three years later, it's as though one slight happened just last week—that moment in Paris, caught on film, when a modeling agent asks Taylor if she has gained weight since her pictures were taken. "Tell me if you want me or not!" Taylor says. Her voice gets louder. "Don't ask questions, criticize me, say things that are hypocritical and look at me as if you are totally satisfied with the way you look. I'm human; you're human!"

She hasn't fully regained her self-esteem. Then again, she is an 18-year-old woman in a looks-obsessed world. "At school, at lunchtime I'm in the bathroom holding girls' hair while they throw up. My friend's dad took her for a consultation with a plastic surgeon to get rid of her love handles."

At 140 pounds, Gerren is thinner than most. (The average American woman is 140 pounds and 5-foot-4; that weight looks a lot different when you're 8 inches taller.) Now, she worries about being curvy enough for boys to notice her. "Nobody is satisfied," she says. "I had a model friend who was too small. Pants were always way too big for her."

She says she has no regrets, because she has a story to tell. And the film has become its own kind of opportunity. Taylor and her mom have traveled with Roberts to promote it. At the Durban International Film Festival in South Africa, Taylor participated in a seminar for teen girls about self-esteem. She also modeled in a runway show.

Which brings us back to the fashion fantasy, and whether she could fall into it again.

"I don't think there is anything wrong with modeling," she says. (Taylor is still represented by Elite L.A.) "There is Seventeen and Teen Vogue; those are fun. They have teachers on set."

At the same time, she dreams of starting a denim line for women of all shapes and sizes, and a self-esteem camp for girls, similar to the one run by Tyra Banks.

Taylor—like most women—wants to rise above the fantasy, even as she keeps it alive.

"I still haven't given it up for good," she says. "It's still fun for me. But if I ever do another runway show, I'm going to be walking for the empowerment of women, not just walking on a stage."

And somehow, I believe her.

Moore is a Los Angeles Times fashion critic.

Rosalind Belben, Rosemary Hill take home literary award

LONDON (AP)—Novelist Rosalind Belben and first-time biographer Rosemary Hill have won Britain's oldest literary award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes.

Belben won the fiction prize for "Our Horses in Egypt," which tells the story of a young war widow who travels to the Middle East to retrieve her mare in the aftermath of World War I—and follows the horse itself as it struggles to survive conflict and privation.

Hill took the best biography award for her first book: "God's Architect: Pugin and the Building of Romantic Britain," a study of Augustus Pugin, one of Victorian Britain's leading architects.

The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, announced Friday, are awarded annually by the University of Edinburgh for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous year. Both prizes are worth $18,500.

"Rosalind Belben's novel was innovatively plotted and convincingly executed, while Rosemary Hill's first book is a biography that does justice to the many facets of the man Augustus Pugin and his work," said Colin Nicholson, the awards' manager.

The prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband's love of reading.

Past winners include D.H. Lawrence, E.M. Forster, Evelyn Waugh, Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and Graham Greene.

GUMS

From Page 18

or of cancer. Osteoporosis, a disease of the bones, could show up in a routine dental X-ray before you notice its impact on your hips or spine.

For their part, dentists and doctors are beginning to realize they might help their patients by joining forces.

"There's a desperate need for more collaboration between the two specialties," emphasizes Alan Douglass, an associate professor of family medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. That's why Douglass and his colleagues created a national oral health curriculum aimed at doctors, "Smiles for Life."

Doctors, Douglass says, "need to serve as an entry point into the dental-care system."

Meanwhile, Evans is urging his fellow dentists to consider the whole person and be "cognizant of their medical needs" as well as their dental ones.

One thing both groups agree on is the power of prevention, which means brushing, flossing and having regular professional cleaning.

Doctors can also help identify at-risk patients. The good news is that if you catch gum disease in its early stages, Cram says, "you can reverse it" with procedures such as scaling and root cleaning.

So, take care of your mouth. Your heart, your brain and your kidneys may thank you for it. As Evans puts it: "Oral health is not an out-of-body experience."

Stars of song, sport to top Olympic closing show

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—A Spanish tenor, a British soccer star and a throng of kung-fu fighters are among the scheduled closing-ceremony attractions Sunday night as China concludes its first Olympics and hands over the role of Summer Games to London.

Fireworks are planned at 18 locations across the vast city, and a packed house of more than 90,000 will be on hand in the National Outdoor Stadium for the ceremony itself.

Its creators have promised a more lighthearted show than the opening ceremony Aug. 8, which focused heavily on Chinese history. Highlights for the closing include a duet by tenor Placido Domingo and Chinese soprano Song Zuying, as well as a display by several hundred kung fu practitioners from a martial arts school.

"It's going to be very different from the opening ceremony, which was burdened with heavy responsibility to show Chinese culture to the world," one of the directors, Miao Pei, told China's Southern Metropolis News.

Film director Zhang Yimou, in charge of both the opening and closing ceremonies, said the dramatic highlight of the finale will be the extinguishing of the Olympic flame atop the stadium. But details were not released in advance—rehearsals were conducted in secret on a college campus.

London, host of the 2012 Olympics, will take over part way through the ceremony for an eight-minute show that will feature a red double-decker London bus driving into the stadium and converting into a stage.

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page and British singing sensation Leona Lewis will perform, and soccer icon David Beckham will kick a ball into a crowd of onlookers. They will be celebrating not only London's upcoming role as host, but also a breakthrough performance here in China by British athletes, completing their country's best Olympics in a century.

"We will not compete with the (Chinese) ceremony," said London 2012 organizer Bill Morris. "It will be simple, youthful, athletic, loud and proud like London, entertaining and fun."

Among those in attendance will be British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and London's mayor, Boris Johnson, who will receive the Olympic flag from Beijing Mayor Go Jinlong.

China invested more than $40 billion in the games, which it viewed as a chance to show the world its dramatic economic progress.

Even with a day of competition remaining, China had clinched first place in the gold medal standings, and logistics during the games ran smoothly. Questions remained, however, about the Chinese authorities' tough stance on press freedom and political protest - it blocked access to numerous politically edged Web sites during the Olympics, issued no permits for use of designated "protest zones" and detained demonstrators at unauthorized protests that did take place sporadically.

AP

Workers set up balloons for the closing ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympics, during the games in Beijing Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008.

'Wire' actress arrested on minor drug charge

BALTIMORE (AP)—An actress who appeared on the HBO series "The Wire" has been arrested on minor drug charges.

Court records show Felicia "Snoop" Pearson, who played a killer of the same name on the televesion series, was charged after police went to her home in Northeast Baltimore to pick her up for refusing to cooperate as a witness in a murder trial.

AP

Felicia "Snoop" Pearson arrives at the 7th annual BET Awards Tuesday, June 26, 2007, in Los Angeles.

She was arrested Wednesday after police served a warrant that would allow them to detain her, if needed, until the Sept. 16 trial of Steven Lashley. Court documents say Pearson is accused of having two cigars containing suspected marijuana in a bedroom and loose plant material. She was charged with one count of drug possession.

Authorities say Pearson witnessed Lashley stab three men, killing one, during an argument in 2005.

Baby-name experts weigh in on Stefani's son `Zuma'

Try saying "Zuma Nesta Rock" five times fast—it's hard. That phonetic flow could be tough to master, let alone live down, for the newborn son of Gavin Rossdale and Gwen Stefani.

The stylish rock-star couple welcomed their second little boy Thursday afternoon in Los Angeles. Little Zuma is the younger brother of two-year-old Kingston, who's been known to sport a supercool faux-hawk and mingle with the likes of Shiloh Jolie-Pitt.

Growing up might present more challenges for Zuma than his sibling, based on his name alone.

The Associated Press consulted its panel of baby-name gurus to weigh in on the quirky moniker.

■■■

EXPERT: Whitney Walker, co-author with Eric Reyes of "The Perfect Baby Name" and consultant through ThePerfectBabyName.com.

SPECIALTY: Phonetics and rhythm - how names sound and flow together.

IMPRESSIONS: "Zuma Nesta Rock sounds like a water park ride or a new energy drink. Zuma is unusual and rather appealing - for a girl. It's said to be taken from Zuma Beach in Malibu, and while place names are great, they have to fit the gender of the baby. But with the `A' ending and the popular `Z' beginning (as in Zoe, Zelda, Zora), Zuma just sounds too feminine. So does Nesta (supposedly Bob Marley's real name), and it's not a good idea to pair two `a' endings as first and middle names - too cutesy."

"Rock is probably thrown in there just to point to the parents' careers, and it does help to add some masculinity. Add Rossdale and you've got four names with the "S/Z" sound in common to tie them together, but they don't flow rhythmically. Finally, it's always a good idea to name siblings in the same genre, but Zuma and Kingston aren't."

GRADE: C

■■■

EXPERT: Maryanna Korwitts, author of "Name Power 101" and founder of BabyNamingCentral.com.

AP

In this July 6, 2008 file photo, musicians Gwen Stefani right, and her husband Gavin Rossdale watch Switzerland's Roger Federer in action against Spain's Rafael Nadal during the men's final on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

SPECIALTY: The holistic approach, from sounds and meanings to the impact of names, possible nicknames—even initials—on personality traits.

IMPRESSIONS: "This celeb couple certainly succeeded in choosing an unusual name. And they succeeded in making an even stronger statement about their fondness for Jamaica. Kingston is named after Jamaica's capital, and Nesta was Jamaican singer Bob Marley's given first name."

"When it comes to historical naming tradition, both Zuma and Nesta are most frequently considered girls' names. ... As this child grows up, he will likely encounter some name-induced gender identity issues.

"As for the subliminal effect, the first name Zuma will encourage a career in acting or music, so this baby could find himself following in a parent's footsteps with ease. But he is also likely to flounder when it comes to communication and relationship compatibility because he carries a name that will establish a highly private nature."

"It seems the Rossdales scarified quality for quirkiness ... and it's a good bet little Zuma may be investigating a name change at some point down the road!"

GRADE: C-

■■■

EXPERT: Jennifer Moss, author of "The One-in-a-Million Baby Name Book" and founder of Babynames.com.

SPECIALTY: Practicality. Moss focuses on the research process, looking for influences such as family history and life experiences.

IMPRESSIONS: "First of all, Zuma? Zuma is a diminutive of the Aztec name Montezuma - not sure the Rossdales realize that. ... But it's also associated with the Zuma Beach (in Los Angeles), which is really beautiful. ... A lot of people are using `place' names now, and I think they used it after the beach, most likely."

"I would recommend that the boy grow up using the name Rock Rossdale because that's probably the only normal name in there. ... He's gonna grow up in the creative community, so I don't think he'll get picked on too much. But there's only one percent of people (surveyed on Babynames.com) that said they loved it. And 50 percent said they hated it. That's a lot."

"Kingston seems so upper class and just sophisticated, that everybody was expecting another name that went along with it."

GRADE: D

■■■

COMPOSITE PANEL GRADE: C-

Madonna kicks off 'Sticky and Sweet' tour in UK

By JOEL RYAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Madonna performs on stage at the premier of her 'Sticky and Sweet' tour at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium in Wales, Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008.

CARDIFF, Wales (AP)—Even at 50, the queen of pop just can't stop courting controversy.

As Madonna kicked off her international "Sticky and Sweet" tour Saturday night, she took a none-too subtle swipe at the presumptive Republican nominee for U.S. president.

Amid a four-act show at Cardiff's packed Millennium Stadium, a video interlude carried images of destruction, global warming, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler, Zimbabwe's authoritarian President Robert Mugabe - and U.S. Senator John McCain. Another sequence, shown later, pictured slain Beatle John Lennon, followed by climate activist Al Gore, Mahatma Gandhi and finally McCain's Democratic rival Barack Obama.

The rest of the show had the usual Madonna fixtures: sequins, fishnets, and bondage-style outfits drawn from the 3,500 items of clothing reportedly whipped together by 36 designers specifically for the tour. Dancers sauntered across stage in top hats and tail coats, and Madonna tried her hand at break-dancing and pole-dancing.

Some 40,000 fans—many in pink cowboy hats and boas—were treated to a heavy metal version of "Borderline," while "La Isla Bonita" served as backdrop for a flamenco routine. The show, billed as a musical mishmash of "gangsta pimp," Romanian folk, rave, and dance—was an homage to Madonna's continuous reinventions over the past three decades.

She took a playful take on her variegated career, mocking dancers dressed as her previous incarnations—including the "Material Girl" and "Blonde Ambition"—before they sank into the stage to the tune of "She's Not Me." Madonna finished off the concert with her thumping "Give it 2 Me" from her new urban-inspired album, "Hard Candy."

If the world's top-selling female recording artist is still writhing, shaking and shimmying with the best of them, her personal life has recently been unsettled. Earlier this summer her brother Christopher Ciccone published a gossipy memoir, and she has faced speculation about her relationship with New York Yankee slugger Alex Rodriquez and rumors that her marriage to British filmmaker Guy Ritchie is on the rocks—which she hotly denies.

Madonna's tour was eagerly anticipated in Britain, where the pop superstar has made her home, and fans weren't disappointed.

"We enjoyed it to the max," said Ruth Henson, 24, who works in human resources in London. "Madonna, considering she's now 50, is so fit. She did a really good job."

Producer ready for Denver's Super Bowl of politics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Producer Ricky Kirshner knows how to put on a big show. After handling the Super Bowl, a NATO summit and four national political conventions, he was ready for the Democratic gathering in Denver.

Then he learned that the convention starting Monday would move from the 20,000-seat Pepsi Center to 76,000-seat Invesco Field for Barack Obama's acceptance speech on the final night, Thursday.

Kirshner's reaction?

"After taking oxygen for about an hour ..." he said, letting the punch line hang in the air before continuing. "I said to my partner, one thing we're lucky about is that we've done so many stadium shows."

This time around, it's both timing and size that count.

There's the issue of shifting the convention from one venue to another in one evening, and having to work around football games scheduled at Invesco within a couple days of the convention's opening and closing.

The plan was to bring equipment into the stadium this weekend and then "caravan over" from the Pepsi Center after events wrap there Wednesday night, Kirshner said. "We'll rehearse a little and then show up Thursday and hope to do it."

Afterward, he has 48 hours to clear out for next Sunday's game between the University of Colorado and Colorado State.

Kirshner considers it worth the stress.

AP

Ricky Kirshner, center in black, a producer for the Democratic Convention, talks with Democratic leaders, from left, Gov. Howard Dean, Federico Pena, co-chair of the Obama campaign and Democratic Convention CEO Leah Daughtry at Invesco Field during a tour of the facility on Thursday, July 24, 2008 in Denver.

"I have my team with me, I know what we're getting into. It's not easy, but at the end of the day it's going to be one of the most historic things ever, and how can you not want to be a part of it?" Kirshner said Friday from Denver.

The event at the Pepsi Center isn't small scale, by any measure.

About 400 people, including stagehands and technical crews, are at work as RK Productions oversees the design, installation and operation of set, light and audio systems. The company also is responsible for entertainment; even signs and banners are part of Kirshner's portfolio.

But it's the video displays that tend to make the biggest splash.

"Every time you do one of these, you try to do something technologically advanced that people haven't seen before," Kirshner said.

That was a wall of 56 video cubes at the 1992 Democratic convention. This time around, Kirshner said, the set offers some 8,000 square feet of video panels with the flexibility to provide a changing background for each speaker.

At heart, a political convention is "a big corporate meeting," he said, which his company also routinely produces.

And no matter how dramatic the gathering or Obama's stadium speech turns out to be from a political standpoint, as a production it won't have the punch of, say, a Beijing Olympics ceremony.

Couple hopes first meeting of friend's date is the last

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband's best friend of 40 years, "Nick," started dating a woman about a month ago. Nick has been down on his luck personally and financially for several years. He called and asked if he could bring "Hattie" to our home for dinner. We agreed, hoping it would be a good relationship for him.

Within 15 minutes of meeting her, Hattie told me she was bipolar and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. She has two small children, but when I asked where they were, she changed the subject. Nick doesn't have kids, and he's nearly 50.

When Hattie asked me for something to drink, I offered her tea or soda. She took the soda, then said she preferred beer and wine, and did I have any. I poured her a glass, then she asked for a second and proceeded to drink 2 1/2 bottles of wine. Later, she told me she had a "headache" and asked if I had anything for pain. I offered Tylenol. No, she wanted something with a "kick." Needless to say, they didn't stay long after that because she was looking for prescription medication, and we had none.

My husband told Nick that Hattie was not the type of woman he needed. Nick shrugged off my husband's advice of not seeing her anymore. Personally, I don't want that woman at my house again. If Nick calls and wants to bring Hattie around again, how should we say no?

BEST FRIEND'S WIFE

DEAR WIFE: Don't say no. Suggest that the four of you go out for dinner and make it a short evening.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I was in high school I was involved in a car accident that took the lives of two of my friends. I was driving. A deer ran out in front of my car, I swerved to miss it and hit a tree. I was wearing a seatbelt, my friends were not.

The police ruled it an accident. My friends' parents believed me, but because of the comments and physical attacks from my classmates I dropped out of school at 17. I got my GED and moved on—or so I thought—until two weeks ago, when I received an invitation to my 20-year reunion.

A handwritten note was enclosed from a girl whom I had thought was my best friend back then. (She turned her back on me when the rumors started.) Her note read: "Come. PLEASE come. I want to see you. We all do."

I don't know what to do. First of all, I dropped out. Second, there will be people there that I do not ever want to see again. My husband and my parents are pressuring me to go. My husband says it will bring me "closure," and my parents say I will look guilty if I don't go. Please help me decide.

REUNION WORRIES

DEAR REUNION WORRIES: Pick up the phone and call the woman who sent the note. You are not the same person you were 20 years ago, and neither are the classmates who treated you so cruelly. You are now an adult, and you will have your loving husband beside you.

As to "looking guilty" should you choose to stay home -- you weren't guilty when the accident happened and not attending won't make you seem guilty now. If you attend, do so because you have unfinished business. The choice, of course, is yours, but I think you have more to gain by going than you have to lose.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

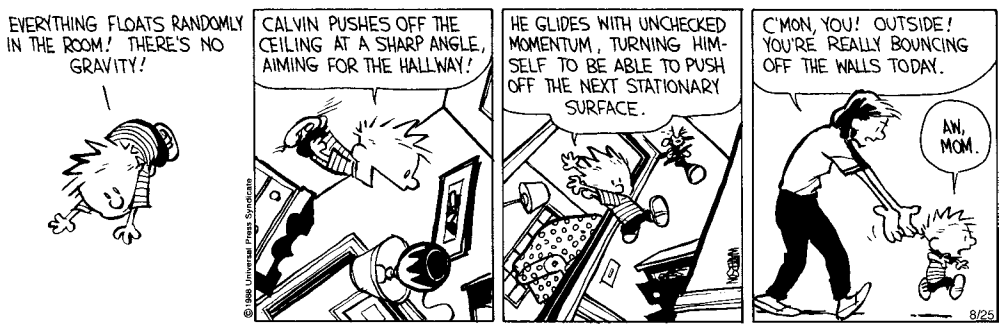
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

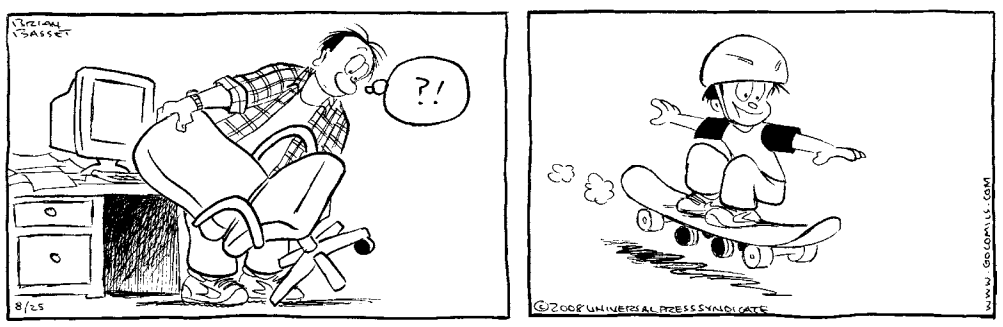

EVERYTHING FLOATS RANDOMLY IN THE ROOM! THERE'S NO GRAVITY!
CALVIN PUSHES OFF THE CEILING AT A SHARP ANGLE, AIMING FOR THE HALLWAY!
HE GLIDES WITH UNCHECKED MOMENTUM, TURNING HIMSELF TO BE ABLE TO PUSH OFF THE NEXT STATIONARY SURFACE.
C'MON, YOU! OUTSIDE! YOU'RE REALLY BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS TODAY.
AW, MOM.
8/25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

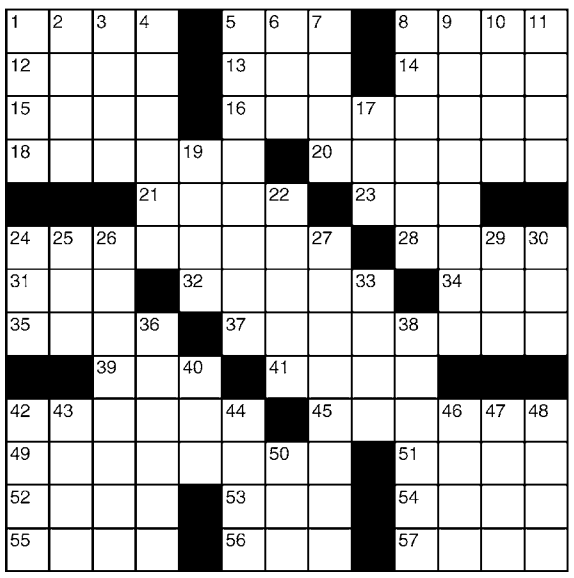
ACROSS
1 Apiece
5 Despondent
8 Vagrant
12 Sly tactic
13 Praise in verse
14 October birthstone
15 Charged particles
16 Walled-in group of buildings
18 Use a seven-second delay, e.g.
20 Scads
21 Brilliant-hued fish
23 Female deer
24 UNIVAC, for one
28 Formerly
31 Honest politician
32 Paddock papas
34 Intimidate
35 Platter
37 Entire
39 Opposite of "dis"
41 Tragic
42 Beetle talisman
45 Mythical maidens
49 Collected into a volume
51 Hodge-podge
52 Sheltered
53 "Hail, Caesar!"
54 PBS science show
55 Sail support
56 That woman
57 Dance lesson

DOWN
1 Grand story
2 Lotion additive
3 R.I. neighbor
4 Mint often used as an herb
5 Re Plato's teacher
6 Commotion
7 Showroom sample
8 Jinx
9 Wealth
10 Poison
11 Automaker Ransom Eli —
17 Legume holder
19 Piece of work
22 Biblical king
24 Scoundrel
25 Sapporo sash
26 Messieurs' counterparts
27 String around your finger
29 Barracks bed
30 Ram's mate
33 Agile
36 Rug
38 Slot-machine fruits
40 Mai — (cocktail)
42 Con job
43 Pop flavor
44 Mediocre
46 Whodunit blueprint
47 Apiary structure
48 Daytime drama
50 Prior night

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	A	B	E	T	S	■	S	H	E	I	L	A
E	X	O	T	I	C	■	L	E	T	R	I	P
S	L	O	U	C	H	■	A	L	C	O	V	E
P	E	R	I	■	N	A	T	O	■	Q	E	D
■	■	■	S	L	A	B	■	T	A	U	■	■
T	E	A	■	O	P	U	S	■	S	O	F	A
W	E	N	T	U	P	T	H	E	H	I	L	L
O	N	T	O	■	S	T	O	W	■	S	U	P
■	■	■	I	N	S	■	E	V	E	R	■	■
P	D	Q	■	W	A	D	E	■	E	P	E	E
R	O	U	T	E	D	■	L	A	S	E	R	S
A	G	E	N	D	A	■	E	X	T	E	N	T
Y	E	S	T	E	R	■	D	E	S	K	S	■

Saturday's answer 8-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kel Mitchell, 30; Cameron Mathison, 39; Billy Ray Cyrus, 47; Tim Burton, 50

Happy Birthday: Take advantage of opportunities to meet new people and develop both personal and professional relationships. You are going through a period of transition that will enable you to clean house mentally, physically and emotionally, positioning you for success. Don't let a few minor upsets stop you from following through with your plans. Your numbers are 12, 18, 23, 30, 33, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Dealing with emotional matters will not pan out the way you planned so let things go rather than retaliating or acting out of frustration or anger. You will have a better view of the overall picture in a few days. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Love is in the stars and being open with the people to whom you are closest will help you put any uncertainties regarding a partnership to rest. Communication will lead to positive results. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect the unexpected and learn to roll with the punches. Don't trust a love interest who is sending mixed messages. Don't give in to the older or younger people in your life if you face unanswered questions. Focus on self-improvement and financial well-being. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make those much-needed changes at home. Don't get emotional with someone who doesn't understand you or what you are trying to do. Follow your instincts before someone tries to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't count on anything unless you actually have it in your hands. Sudden changes may leave you high and dry financially. Don't let a lover, good friend or one of your children cost you unnecessarily. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give in to emotional bribery. Say no if you don't like a proposal that's being offered. Look for opportunities to expand your interests and your cash flow and put your ideas to good use. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The more active and aggressive you are, the better. Visit someone who can add to something you are working on. Two heads are better than one, especially when you complement one another's style and expressiveness. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You will achieve the most if you are original and innovative. Strive to do something that is serviceable and you will corner a market that hasn't been tapped yet. Make a new friend or find a love connection by taking part in an activity or event that strives for improvement. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Disagreements with colleagues, superiors and partners will escalate to the point of no return. Before you say something you may regret, rethink your reason for being upset in the first place. It may be best to back away for the time being. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get caught up in other people's problems. Avoid any melodrama at work or with colleagues. Push to finish a settlement, agreement or investment you've been working on. A partnership will prove to be more prosperous than you imagined. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do your part by volunteering to help a cause. You will feel emotionally attached to someone who is experiencing troubles with a partner or loved one. Your ability to find solutions to other people's problems will put you in a key position to advance. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will be trapped in an awkward position if you give out too much information about your personal life. Try to keep things positive and work toward forming a partnership with someone who has something to contribute. A power play will help you restructure your professional position. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring but also practical, precise and open-minded. You are bold, adaptable, respected and a leader among your peers.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	1	4	8					7
			4		9			1
				6				3
	3		6		2		5	9
		6				7		
4	9		5		8		1	
6				1				
3			2		7			
8					6	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★ 8/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	7	6	2	3	5	1	9
6	1	9	4	5	8	7	3	2
2	5	3	7	1	9	8	6	4
9	2	4	8	6	1	3	7	5
7	6	5	3	4	2	9	8	1
3	8	1	9	7	5	2	4	6
1	3	8	2	9	4	6	5	7
4	7	2	5	8	6	1	9	3
5	9	6	1	3	7	4	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/23

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BARACK OBAMA **Solution: 6 letters**

Y	K	Y	N	A	S	U	S	S	F	E	I	R	B	N
A	E	E	S	M	D	S	S	D	R	A	V	R	A	H
C	Y	N	N	A	O	K	H	L	P	L	C	C	S	E
T	N	R	R	N	O	A	E	O	A	O	I	C	K	E
I	O	A	U	O	W	C	M	W	N	R	J	A	E	A
V	T	E	B	A	T	A	S	S	E	O	E	U	T	I
E	E	K	I	U	L	T	E	M	B	S	L	C	B	N
Y	T	I	R	I	R	R	A	S	T	P	L	U	A	E
G	C	E	A	O	V	N	A	(V)	R	O	E	S	L	G
R	R	A	P	A	A	H	O	(O)	A	R	H	I	L	U
E	N	E	T	C	S	C	G	(T)	I	T	C	M	R	L
N	R	I	I	A	H	R	H	(E)	N	S	I	O	O	H
E	O	R	T	I	A	Y	N	E	K	I	M	N	T	O
N	F	A	L	M	O	U	T	H	C	I	L	B	U	P
A	N	I	S	E	E	T	T	I	M	M	O	C	T	E

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/25

Active, African-American, Attorney, Basketball, Books, Briefs, Burns, Caucus, Chili, Clinton, Committees, Conservation, Energy, Falmouth, Harvard, Hawaii, Honolulu, Hope, Jobs, Kearney, Kenya, Keynote, Laws, Lecturer, Lugenia, Malia Ann, Manoa, Michelle, Natasha, Pete, Programs, Public, Reports, Simon, Sports, Susan, Train, Tutor, Vote, Woods

Last Saturday's Answer: Community

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 or 27 send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6686. Order online at upcyzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Navy Hill Apartments for rent. Spacious 2-bedroom units with beautiful view of Saipan. Featuring a private view balcony, fully furnished, FREE wireless DSL, 24-hour water, night-time security, typhoon shutters, laundry area, on-call maintenance staff & BACK-UP GENERATOR. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

WHATZIT Solution:
The second time around

Make it a **daily** habit!

Log on to www.saipantribune.com

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

time emit

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principa
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PA
There is still hope for nonimm
all alien workers in the CNMI who are appealing to U.S. lawmakers to retain the provision in the federalization bills that would grant nonimmigrant status to long-term alien workers.
In her message, expected to be read during today's prayer vigil at the American Memorial Park's Amphitheater, Doromal urged alien workers to "stand strong" as she vowed to continue supporting them "until the fight is won."
See DOROMAL on Page 4
joins Micronesia si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Merriman faces tough choice on torn knee ligaments

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chargers Pro Bowl linebacker Shawne Merriman said Saturday he has two torn ligaments in his left knee and has been told by doctors that he could suffer a possible career-ending injury if he attempts to play without having surgery.

Merriman said he has tears in both the posterior cruciate and lateral collateral ligaments. He said doctors agree that he needs surgery to repair the damage.

"It could be career-threatening if I did (play)," Merriman said. "It's a possibility. That possibility is still open."

A course of action has not been decided. Merriman, who will consult with a doctor in Miami early next week before making a decision, has been told reconstructive surgery would sideline him for the entire 2008 season. Another option is a less-invasive surgery that would allow him to play at some point in the season.

"They've all said the same things about the injury," Merriman said. "(They're) kind of surprised that I've been playing with it up to this point."

The Chargers open the regular season Sept. 7 against the Carolina Panthers. Merriman wants to play this season.

"That's first and foremost," Merriman said. "That's what I want to do. That's why this decision is even out there still and not already made, because I want to play, period. The question is what should I do? How long should I play with it?

"It's a thousand different options at this point and I'm just trying to make the best one."

Merriman left the team Tuesday to seek opinions from other doctors, a trek that included a visit with renowned surgeon James Andrews on Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala. He said he is seeking as many opinions as he can for a reason.

"I'm just trying to make the best decision possible for the team and for my career," Merriman said.

Coach Norv Turner has remained optimistic all week that Merriman will be able to play this season. He again expressed that hope Saturday.

"Right now, in talking to him, his mind-set is he's doing everything he can to get ready for Carolina, our opener," Turner said. "He just wants to get a little bit more information on his knee."

Merriman has made the Pro Bowl in each of his three NFL seasons. He has 39 1/2 sacks in that span, more than any other NFL player.

AP

In this Aug. 30, 2007, file photo, San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman waits for the snap during an NFL preseason football game against the San Francisco 49ers in San Diego.

Ridgewood Country Club strikes back in The Barclays

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Steve Stricker shook his head and flashed a wry smile when he walked out of the scorer's room Saturday at The Barclays.

If nothing else, the defending champion was glad he was finally off the sun-baked Ridgewood Country Club course after a humbling round that left Kevin Streelman atop the leaderboard and more than two dozen players in the title chase.

"I just stunk it up," Stricker said. "I've got to try to regroup."

He lost a ball and the lead on the par-4 12th.

After fading a drive into the rough, his aggressive approach shot from a tough angle skipped along the far side of the left rough and into a tangled mess of shoulder-high grass, bushes and weeds.

Despite TV replays and a large search party, the ball couldn't be located and Stricker - four strokes ahead after 10 holes—took a penalty stroke and trudged back to the spot where he hit the costly shot.

The winner last year at Westchester Country Club, Stricker advanced the new ball 40 yards short of the green, hit his fifth shot 30 feet past the hole and two-putted for a triple-bogey 7 to drop to 7 under—a stroke behind Sergio Garcia.

"I got off to a good start, then I made two stupid plays in a row on 11 and 12," Stricker said. "The one at 12 was one of the dumbest plays I ever made trying to do what I did out of the rough there. From that point on, it was a struggle to get in."

By the time Stricker signed for a 6-over 77, he was four strokes back at 4 under in a 12-way tie for 11th. On Friday, he shot a 7-under 64 in perfect morning conditions to take a three-stroke lead over Hunter Mahan in the FedEx Cup playoff opener.

Stricker was 12 under through six holes, then dropped a stroke on No. 7 to end a 23-hole stretch without a bogey. He also bogeyed the 11th, made the triple on 12 and dropped three more strokes with bogeys on 14, 16 and 17.

"It's tough," Stricker said. "It got a little crusty and the wind picked up a little bit. But I didn't do very well."

Streelman, a 29-year-old Q-school graduate in his rookie season on the PGA Tour, took the lead at 8 under with a 25-foot birdie putt from the fringe on the par-4 16th and parred the final two holes for a 68 and an 8-under 205 total.

"It will be a fun day for me," Streelman said. "I'm interested to see how I kind of react to it. That's what I've been working for my whole life."

Streelman made news this year at Torrey Pines, playing with Tiger Woods on the weekend in the Buick Invitational in January and sharing the first-round lead in the U.S. Open in June on the San Diego course.

"That day with Tiger was the greatest preparation I ever could have imagined," Streelman said. "I know it will be crazy tomorrow, but I guarantee you it won't be quite as big as that day in San Diego with Tiger."

The former Duke star's parents are from nearby Glen Rock and his grandparents are buried in a cemetery next to the course.

"My cousin came and watched me last week and told me," said Streelman, 102nd in the FedEx Cup standings. "I was like, 'Well, that's kind of cool.'"

Vijay Singh, a three-time winner at Westchester, shot a 66 to join Garcia (69), Mike Weir (67) and Paul Casey (69) at 7 under. Garcia, a two-time champion at Westchester, had six birdies and four bogeys.

"It's dried out quite a bit," said Singh, the winner three weeks ago at Firestone. "The rough is less thicker. ... I think they stopped watering it, so you can actually play. It's playable, and some places, you can get yourself in big trouble.

"But I think it's playing really well. The greens have been drying out really fast, and depending where the pins are tomorrow, it's going to be a tough day."

Tricky, shifting wind made club selection difficult on the tree-lined A.W. Tillinghast layout—the first-time site after 41 seasons at Westchester—and further hardened the small, stressed greens that started to turn purple in spots.

"That little 10-mph wind, with the big trees, it has that Augusta feel where you think it's going this way and it might go this way and that's the difference between maybe having as 10-footer or a 30-footer," said Weir, sporting a full "playoff" beard.

Kenny Perry, effectively the FedEx Cup leader with the top-ranked Woods sidelined by a knee injury, was 5 under after a 72.

Mahan, the first-round leader after a morning 62, also struggled in the final group, shooting a 74 to join Stricker in the large group at 4 under.

Phil Mickelson was 1 under after a 72. He double-hit a flop shot from the deep rough on the 271-yard, par-4 fifth en route to a double bogey.

"I tried to hit a little 64-degree wedge and it came out and I heard it ding my club on the follow through," Mickelson said. "I didn't really feel it."

Giants' Umenyiora carted off field with hurt knee

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora injured his left knee in the second quarter of the New York Giants' preseason game against the New York Jets, but coach Tom Coughlin said that early indications are that he did not suffer ligament damage.

X-rays taken during the Jets' 10-7 win were negative. An MRI is planned on Sunday.

"I talked to him when he was in the locker room, in the training room," fellow defensive end Justin Tuck said of a halftime exchange. "Obviously, he was down. It's unfortunate when any injury occurs, but hopefully, it is nothing serious and he will not miss any time."

Umenyiora left the locker room before the game ended and was not available for comment.

Umenyiora told Tuck that "he was good," Tuck said.

The two-time Pro Bowler was hurt with 10:48 left in the half on a third-down incomplete pass by the Jets' Brett Favre.

Defensive tackle Barry Cofield did not get a chance to talk to Umenyiora but he recalled the play.

"It looked like he was turning the corner and just kind of took an awkward step," Cofield said. "The turf is hard and playing at that speed on that edge, you can tweak things."

The 26-year-old could not put any weight on his leg. He was helped off the field with his arms wrapped around the shoulders of two trainers.

Coughlin said Umenyiora was in pain.

"The doctors told me there was no ligament damage," Coughlin said when pressed.

Umenyiora started all 16 games last season and had 52 tackles and a team-high 13 sacks. He added seven tackles in the Giants' run to the Super Bowl.

The Giants are a bit thin at defensive end this season with the retirement of seven-time Pro Bowler Michael Strahan. Justin Tuck has replaced Strahan. New York also signed veteran Renaldo Wynn in the offseason.

If Umenyiora was sidelined for any considerable time, the Giants could move strongside linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka back to defensive end. He was switched to linebacker last year so the team could put its best 11 players on the field.

"You are always concerned any time a player like that goes down," Kiwanuka said. "That's not good. We know the type of player he is and if he can come back he will. But we have the personal to step up in his absence."

Kiwanuka sidestepped moving back to defensive end, saying that decision is up to the team.

Wanjiru wins marathon in Olympic record time

BEIJING (AP)—For all of Kenya's long-distance running successes—world titles and high-profile marathons among them—the African country didn't have a single win in any Olympic marathon until Sunday.

Samuel Wanjiru pulled away over the final few kilometers to become the first Kenyan to win the longest Olympic race.

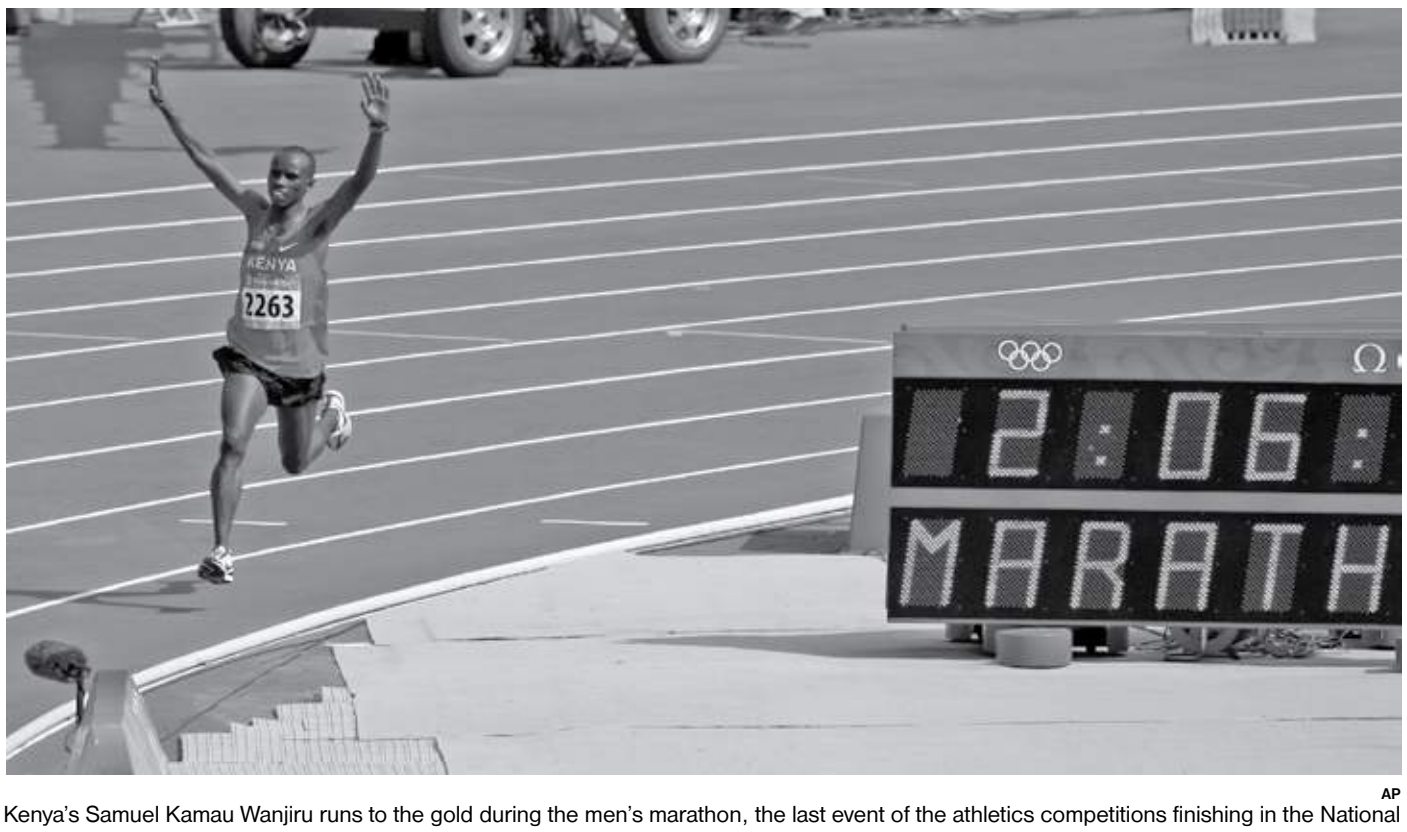
Kenyans had twice won men's marathon silver medals, most recently in 2000, but never a gold.

"In Kenya, we have many medals, but I'm glad to have this one, too," the Japan-based Wanjiru said. "It feels good to make history here."

The 21-year-old Wanjiru finished the 42.2-kilometer (26.2-mile) course through the streets of Beijing in bright sunshine in an Olympic record of 2 hours, 6 minutes, 32 seconds.

Jaouad Gharib of Morocco won silver in 2:07.16, and Tsegay Kebede of Ethiopia took the bronze in 2:10.00.

Wanjiru won the Fukuoka International Marathon in Japan last December and was runner-up at the London Marathon in April behind Martin Lel, who finished fifth Sunday.



AP
Kenya's Samuel Kamau Wanjiru runs to the gold during the men's marathon, the last event of the athletics competitions finishing in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008.

Reigning world champion Luke Kibet of Kenya stayed with the leaders through the early stages but fell back and finally pulled out of the race shortly past the halfway mark. He later said he had a stomach problem.

World record-holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia decided not to run the race because of concerns about Beijing's air pollution. But there were clear, sunny skies Sunday after an overnight thunderstorm.

In another early result Sunday, Russia won its third straight Olympic gold in rhythmic gymnastics' all-around group competition.

Gold medal finals scheduled later Sunday involved three American men's teams. The United States played Brazil for gold in volleyball, Hungary in water polo and Spain in basketball, where NBA stars Kobe Bryant and LeBron James lead the Americans into one of the most anticipated matches of the games.

Finals are also scheduled in boxing, while France takes on Iceland in men's team handball, where Iceland will try to win its first-ever Olympic gold.

England football star David Beckham and kung-fu fighters were among the closing-ceremony attractions scheduled for later Sunday as China concluded its first Olympics and handed over the role of host to London.

Fireworks were planned at 18 locations and a packed house of more than 90,000 will be on hand at the Bird's Nest for the ceremony.

London, host of the 2012 Olympics, will take over part way through the ceremony for an eight-minute show that will feature a red double-decker London bus driving into the stadium and converting into a stage.

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page will perform and Beckham will kick a ball into a crowd of onlookers. They will be celebrating not only London's upcoming role as host, but also a breakthrough performance in China by British athletes, completing their country's best Olympics in a century.

Angels end Twins' 4-game win streak in clash of divisional leaders

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels snapped the Minnesota's four-game winning streak, beating the Twins 7-5 in a showdown between two of the American League's divisional leaders Saturday.

Mark Teixeira went 3-for-3 with a home run for Los Angeles, which extended its lead in the AL West to 16 games, while Minnesota could not improve its half-game lead in the AL Central.

Francisco Rodriguez closed out another strong performance by the Angels' bullpen, earning his 49th save and combining with two set-up men for 4-2/3 scoreless innings.

Rays 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, surging Tampa Bay increased its divisional lead with a win over Chicago.

Carlos Pena's two-run single capped a four-run eighth inning for the Rays, who moved 5-1/2 games clear atop the AL East.

Pena's bases-loaded single broke a 3-3 tie as Tampa Bay maintained its strong form despite injuries to key players.

The Rays won despite conceding two homers and having their first 17 batters retired.

The White Sox remained half a game behind AL Central leader Minnesota and the same margin behind Boston, which currently holds the wildcard.

Blue Jays 11, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, the home side routed Boston, condemning Jon Lester to the shortest start of his career.

Red Sox pitcher Lester had won nine of his past 10 decisions and gone at least seven innings in eight straight starts, but lasted just 2 1-3 innings this time, giving up a career worst seven runs.

The loss kept Boston only half a game ahead of Chicago in the wildcard race and a drifting 5-1/2 games off AL East leader Tampa Bay.

Vernon Wells hit two home runs and Marco Scutaro added a solo shot for the Blue Jays.

Wells went 4-for-5 with three RBIs and scored four times. He hit a two-run shot off Lester in the first inning and a solo drive in the fifth for his team-leading 12th homer.

Yankees 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Carl Pavano impressed in his first majors' pitching appearance for 16 months, guiding New York over Baltimore.

The injury-cursed Pavano allowed three runs in five innings, striking out five. It was only his 20th start with the Yankees since signing a four-year, $40 million contract before the 2005 season.

Indians 8, Rangers 7

In Arlington, Texas, Cleveland rallied from a six-run deficit to edge Texas and win their sixth straight game.

Pinch-hitter Jamey Carroll singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for the Indians.

Texas led 7-1 before Cleveland's comeback. It was 7-7 in the eighth when the Indians got a single with one out. The pinch-runner advanced to second on a passed ball and Carroll grounded a single past first base to drive home what proved the winner.

Tigers 4, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, the home side slumped to its seventh straight loss at the hands of Detroit.

Detroit starter Zach Miner pitched three-hit ball for seven innings, not allowing a hit after a single to lead off the third. He retired 12 of the final 13 batters he faced, with the exception being a two-out walk. Miner has not allowed a run in five outings at Kansas City.

Miguel Cabrera hit his third homer in two games to reach 100 RBIs for the season.

The Royals have their third losing streak of at least seven games this season. They have been outscored 78-29 in losing 10 of 11 and falling a season-worst 19-games below .500.

Athletics 5, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Oakland pitcher Dana Eveland tied a career high seven strikeouts in his return to the majors, setting up victory over Seattle.

Eveland, who had been sent back to play with the minor league Sacramento River Cats after a poor spell earlier this month, returned to pitch a shutout into the seventh inning. He beat Seattle for the third time this season.

Cubs 9, Nationals 2

In Chicago, Aramis Ramirez hit a pair of three-run homers and Ryan Dempster matched a career high with his 15th win, leading the Chicago Cubs over the Washington Nationals.

Mark DeRosa homered in his third straight game and Alfonso Soriano added a RBI double for the Cubs, who have the best record in the NL at 79-50. Dempster (15-5) allowed one run in 7 1-3 innings.

Dempster, who also won 15 games for Florida in 2001, scattered eight hits, struck out four and walked one, sending the Nationals to their 13th loss in 15 games.

Phillies 9, Dodgers 2

At Philadelphia, Pat Burrell homered and matched his career high with five RBIs, and Cole Hamels pitched effectively with some overdue run support to lead Philadelphia.

Burrell put the Phillies ahead with his 30th homer, a three-run shot just inside the left-field foul pole in the first inning. He got a gift RBI double in the fifth when Los Angeles center fielder Matt Kemp lost a routine fly in the sun, then capped his big day with a RBI single in the sixth. Burrell also scored three runs.

Hamels (11-8) went seven innings, allowing two runs and five hits while striking out five.

Los Angeles rookie left-hander Clayton Kershaw (2-4) had his worst outing of the season, allowing a season-high six runs and seven hits in four-plus innings.

Giants 4, Padres 3

At San Francisco, Rich Aurilia tripled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning for San Francisco to match its season-best four-game winning streak.

Barry Zito (8-15) allowed four hits in eight innings, giving up three runs as the Giants won four straight for the first time since June 6-9.

Dirk Hayhurst went four innings in his major league debut, allowing three runs on five hits and a pair of walks in San Diego's sixth straight loss.

Astros 8, Mets 3

At New York, Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer, Brandon Backe brought his best stuff to the mound and Houston roughed up John Maine early in a victory over New York.

Berkman finished with three hits and four RBIs and Miguel Tejada drove in a pair of runs for the Astros.

Brian Schneider hit a two-run homer for the Mets, who lost for just the second time in 12 games.

Backe (8-12) retired his first 14 batters and lasted seven-plus innings, allowing three runs and five hits.

Struggling with a sore shoulder lately, Maine (10-8) gave up a season-high 10 hits and eight runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Brewers 6, Pirates 3

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun homered, doubled and drove in three runs, leading Jeff Suppan and Milwaukee past Pittsburgh for its third straight victory.

Suppan (9-7) pitched seven-plus innings and earned his fourth consecutive win.

Pittsburgh's Tom Gorzelanny (6-8) was recalled from Triple-A before the game but gave up six runs and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Braves 8, Cardinals 4

At St. Louis, pinch-hitter Greg Norton delivered a tiebreaking single with two outs in the eighth inning, and Atlanta beat St. Louis to snap a six-game losing streak.

Albert Pujols homered and drove in three runs for the Cardinals.

Diamondbacks 7, Marlins 1

At Phoenix, Yusmeiro Petit pitched six solid innings and Arizona padded its NL West lead, getting home runs from Chris Young and Miguel Montero in a victory over Florida.

Petit (3-3) allowed two hits and struck out six, matching season bests. He gave up just a homer by Hanley Ramirez in the fourth and a single by John Baker in the sixth.

Young put the Diamondbacks ahead 2-1 in the fifth with a solo shot off Chris Volstad (4-3), who allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Rockies 7, Reds 6

At Denver, Matt Holliday hit a three-run double that highlighted a seventh-inning rally in Colorado's win.

The Rockies trailed 5-3 when Holliday hit reliever Nick Masset's first pitch off the right-field wall. Brad Hawpe followed with a RBI single.

Jay Bruce and Chris Dickerson homered and Joey Votto had three hits for Cincinnati.

US

From Page 28

then could the Americans relax a little.

They began to celebrate during a break after some technical fouls on Spain with 26 seconds left, then celebrated at midcourt when it was over with "Born in the USA" blaring over the arena's speakers.

Nobody else had been close to the Americans in Beijing. This team's only Olympic competition had been history, in a Dream matchup with guys named Jordan, Magic, Bird and the rest of the U.S. team that dominated the Barcelona Games in 1992.

Forget comparisons to those guys. The Americans were lucky to be better than Spain on Sunday.

Rudy Fernandez scored 22 points and Pau Gasol had 21 for the Spanish, the reigning world champions who were hoping to win their first Olympic gold.

U.S. players appreciated the game Spain gave them. After the contest, they hugged the Spanish players. Bryant had an especially long embrace for Gasol, patting his Los Angeles Lakers teammate on the back.

Seeming to appreciate the moment, after congratulating Spain, the team joined in a circle, jumping up and down at center court and waving triumphantly to the crowd as coach Mike Krzyzewski applauded on the sidelines.

The Americans had won their first seven games by 30.3 points, including a 119-82 rout of Spain. But they never had control of this game, giving up open looks from the perimeter and plenty of points in the paint.

But Bryant, who waited so long to finally wear the red, white and blue, hit two 3-pointers in a big fourth quarter to add the gold medal to the only piece of hoops hardware he didn't already own. The NBA MVP pounded his hands toward the floor in celebration at the end.

LeBron James scored 14 points, while Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul had 13 apiece for the Americans, who had won bronze medals in their last two international events, the 2004 Olympics and '06 world championships.

The U.S. started planning for this game after that first event, the low point in its hoops history, following a sixth-place flop two years earlier in the world championships. Jerry Colangelo was given control of USA Basketball and constructed a national team program in 2006, requiring those who wanted to play to commit to three years.

He got Bryant and James quickly on board and landed almost everyone else he asked for, finding a group of NBA stars eager to give up their summer to get back what they felt belonged to their country.

And he needed all of them against a Spain team that on this day would have likely beaten any other recent U.S. squad.

Jason Kidd ran his record to 56-0 in senior international play and collected another gold to place alongside the one he earned in 2000, becoming the 13th U.S. player with multiple golds.

That elite list, which includes Michael Jordan and seven other Dream Teamers, could grow in 2012. Paul and Dwight Howard said they would be in London if asked, and perhaps half this team could join them.

James ran out for pregame warmups with his finger in the air, already believing the U.S. was No. 1. But even though the Americans were shooting better than 70 percent for most of the first half, it would take a long time to prove it.

James and Bryant were both on the bench after picking up two fouls in the first 3 1/2 minutes, and though Wade came in and picked up their scoring load, the U.S. reserves couldn't open their usual cushion.

Spain hit seven of its first nine shots, leading for much of the first quarter. A quick burst of 10 points by James and Wade had the U.S. advantage up to 14 points with 4 minutes left in the half, but Spain chipped away and trailed only 69-61 at the break.

Spain was within four on a number of occasions in the third, and Fernandez's 3-pointer cut it down to 91-89 with 8:13 remaining. Bryant answered with a bucket, later added a 3, and things seemed safe when James scored to make it 103-92.

Spain made one last push to close within 108-104 on Carlos Jimenez's 3-pointer, but Wade hit one on the other end, and the final score became lopsided when the Americans hit a bunch of free throws after the Spanish became frustrated and were called for the technicals.

Argentina won the bronze with an 87-75 victory over Lithuania.

SHELL

From Page 28

triple by extra hitter Bruce Norita at the bottom of the third.

Natibu had one final chance to score and extend the game when J.R. Suel hit a standup double and advanced to third at the bottom of the seventh inning. Suel batted third, while the first two batters were thrown out.

Ned Norita, who scored a two-run homer in Natibu's 2-12 semifinal loss to Shell Marianas, stepped up to the plate and made two foul balls to end their chances to force a deciding Game 2.

The championship was sixth in a row for the winning team, which changed its name from No Ka Oi to Shell Marianas this year.

"You never get tired of winning. Some guys left the team, but we were able to find new ones who can give us good games," said winning pitcher Mel Sakisat.

Sakisat pitched in no relief, allowing six hits, walking one and striking out two. He went 2-for-3 at the plate and scored one run.

J.J. Laniyo hit 3-for-3, making two singles and one double.

Joining Sakisat, Camacho, Tagabuel, Sablan, Mesa, and Laniyo on the champion team were Jery Ayuyu, Toi and Roy Celis, Berta Camacho, Jun Saralu, Dave Camacho, Erica Tenorio, Mario Sablan, Nick Castro, Joey dela Cruz, and Oliver Secharmidal.

Games in the Marianas Cup were played over the weekend with eight teams vying for the championship.

The list also included K-Mobil, That's It, Dr. Jack, PTC Traders, and T-Minko.

Shell Marianas drew a bye in the first round and beat K-Mobil in its first game, 12-4. Natibu defeated Dr. Jack in the first game, 8-3 and topped PTC in the second, 12-1, to moved into the semis.

Natibu was relegated to the losers' bracket semifinals when it bowed to Shell Marianas in the winner's bracket semis. But Natibu earned a rematch when it slipped past T-Minko, 11-10, in the knockout semis game.

With Shell Marianas sweeping the elimination round, it earned a twice-to-beat advantage against Natibu in the finals.

Shell Marianas outfielders were quick to chase the ball and the rest of the team stood their ground on defense, shutting out Natibu in the lone game in the championship round.

With the win, Shell Marianas earned the right to represent Saipan in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Tournament set for Sept. 6 on Rota.

TAWANPIY

From Page 28

place. The Micronesian Games veteran shot the lowest gross with 72 to win two water park passes at Pacific Islands Club and $200 cash for placing second to Tawanpiy.

Tawanpiy went home with $300, while third placer Tars Olopai pocketed 100.

Olopai tied Wabol's net score, but dropped to third, as the former drilled 38 on the front nine, two strokes behind the latter's 36. Olopai, who had a 4.8 handicap, fired a 40 on the back for a gross 78.

Actually, two other golfers also had a net 73.2, but Ralph Yumul and Lorraine A. Babauta were relegated to fourth and fifth places, respectively, after scoring a 40 and 48 on the front nine.

Rudy Sablan finished sixth with his net 73.4, followed by Lucio Aldan (73.4), Joe Sablan (74.8), Ed Manibusan (75.2), and Frank Castro (75.2).

Besides the cash prizes for the Top 3 placers, Sufa Softball Association also awarded prizes courtesy of Shell Marianas, Laolao Bay, Palms Resort Saipan, and Pacific Island Club for the sixth to 10th finishers.

Saturday's event was a fundraising tournament with its proceeds to be used for SSA's trip to Las Vegas. Sufa is sending a team to Nevada to join the 4th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament next month.

NEW

From Page 28

Matches on weekdays will start at 6pm, while weekend games will begin at 3pm.

But schedules are subject to changes depending on the number of teams that will join the inaugural league.

Muleta said the inter-color caging will be the first project of PILCOWA, Inc., a new workers group organization formed early this year. PILCOWA is under the leadership of president Ronnie Doca.

The association is hoping to hold the league every year. Winners in next month's league will receive trophies, while members of the champion team will be awarded medals.

Entrance fee is $500.

For more information, contact Muleta at 285-9783. ***(Roselyn B.Monroyo)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	79	49	.617	_
Boston	74	55	574	5 1/2
New York	69	60	535	101/2
Toronto	67	62	519	12 1/2
Baltimore	61	67	.477	18

Central Division

Minnesota	74	55	.574	_
Chicago	73	55	.570	1/2
Detroit	64	65	496	10
Cleveland	61	67	.477	12 1/2
Kansas City	55	74	.426	19

West Division

Los Angeles	78	50	.609	_
Texas	63	67	.485	16
Oakland	59	70	.457	19 1/2
Seattle	47	82	.364	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	58	.554	_
Philadelphia	70	59	.543	1½
Florida	66	64	.508	6
Atlanta	57	73	.438	15
Washington	46	84	.354	26

Central Division

Chicago	79	50	.612	
Milwaukee	75	55	.577	4½
St. Louis	72	59	.550	8
Houston	65	64	.504	14
Pittsburgh	57	72	.442	22
Cincinnati	57	73	.438	22½

West Division

Arizona	68	61	.527	_
Los Angeles	65	64	.504	3
Colorado	60	71	.458	9
San Francisco	57	72	.442	11
San Diego	48	81	.372	20

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Washington 2
Atlanta 8, St. Louis 4
Philadelphia 9, L.A. Dodgers 2
San Francisco 4, San Diego 3
Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 3
Houston 8, N.Y. Mets 3
Colorado 7, Cincinnati 6
Arizona 7, Florida 1
Toronto 11, Boston 0
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago White Sox 3
N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 3
Detroit 4, Kansas City 0
Cleveland 8, Texas 7
L.A. Angels 7, Minnesota 5
Oakland 5, Seattle 1

THE BARCLAY SCORES

PARAMUS, New Jersey (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Barclays, a $7 million (4.7 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,319-yard, par-71 Ridgewood Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Kevin Streelman	67-70-68	205
Vijay Singh	70-70-66	206
Mike Weir	72-67-67	206
Paul Casey	66-71-69	206
Sergio Garcia	70-67-69	206
Jason Day	74-68-66	208
Robert Allenby	69-73-66	208
Kevin Sutherland	70-69-69	208
Kenny Perry	69-67-72	208
Angel Cabrera	69-67-72	208
Dean Wilson	72-70-67	209
Jim Furyk	70-71-68	209
Jeff Overton	74-67-68	209
Stuart Appleby	71-70-68	209
Briny Baird	69-71-69	209
Ben Curtis	71-68-70	209
Patrick Sheehan	69-70-70	209
Bubba Watson	68-70-71	209
Anthony Kim	70-67-72	209
Dudley Hart	67-69-73	209
Steve Stricker	68-64-77	209
Hunter Mahan	62-73-74	209
Ken Duke	72-71-67	210
Scott Verplank	73-70-67	210
Kevin Na	72-70-68	210
Mathew Goggin	67-74-69	210
John Merrick	69-71-70	210
Bill Haas	71-68-71	210
Ryan Palmer	69-69-72	210
Nicholas Thompson	75-68-68	211
K.J. Choi	74-69-68	211
Eric Axley	78-65-68	211
Glen Day	70-71-70	211
Bo Van Pelt	67-74-70	211
Justin Leonard	70-70-71	211
Brett Quigley	71-69-71	211
Martin Laird	70-69-72	211
George McNeill	68-70-73	211
Chad Campbell	71-72-69	212
John Mallinger	70-73-69	212
Tim Petrovic	71-72-69	212
Jay Williamson	74-68-70	212
Jesper Parnevik	68-72-72	212
Phil Mickelson	70-70-72	212
Lee Janzen	71-69-72	212
Rory Sabbatini	70-70-72	212
Tim Clark	70-69-73	212
Charley Hoffman	67-71-74	212
Brian Davis	69-74-70	213
Stewart Cink	73-70-70	213
Jerry Kelly	72-70-71	213
Rich Beem	68-74-71	213
Frank Lickliter II	71-71-71	213
Mark Wilson	72-70-71	213
Carl Pettersson	72-70-71	213
Steve Elkington	71-71-71	213
John Senden	71-70-72	213
Billy Mayfair	70-70-73	213
Tim Herron	69-71-73	213
Justin Bolli	71-71-72	214
Charlie Wi	72-71-72	215
Brandt Snedeker	71-71-73	215
Jonathan Byrd	72-70-73	215
J.B. Holmes	71-71-73	215
Nick Watney	71-69-75	215
Michael Allen	73-67-75	215
Lucas Glover	70-70-75	215
J.J. Henry	70-72-74	216
Richard S. Johnson	74-69-74	217
Trevor Immelman	70-71-76	217
Andres Romero	72-68-77	217
Paul Goydos	70-72-77	219

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	T
United States	36	38	36	110
China	51	21	28	100
Russia	23	21	28	72
Britain	19	13	15	47
Australia	14	15	17	46
Germany	16	10	15	41
France	7	16	17	40
South Korea	13	10	8	31
Italy	8	10	10	28
Ukraine	7	5	15	27
Japan	9	6	10	25
Cuba	2	11	11	24
Belarus	4	5	10	19
Spain	5	10	3	18
Canada	3	9	6	18
Netherlands	7	5	4	16
Brazil	3	4	8	15
Kenya	5	5	4	14
Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13
Jamaica	6	3	2	11
Poland	3	6	1	10
Hungary	3	5	2	10
Norway	3	5	2	10
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Romania	4	1	3	8
Turkey	1	4	3	8
Ethiopia	4	1	2	7
Denmark	2	2	3	7
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
Slovakia	3	2	1	6
Georgia	3	0	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Argentina	2	0	4	6
Switzerland	2	0	4	6
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
Armenia	0	0	6	6
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Croatia	0	2	3	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
Mongolia	2	2	0	4
Thailand	2	2	0	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Finland	1	1	2	4
Greece	0	2	2	4
Nigeria	0	1	3	4
Taiwan	0	0	4	4
Mexico	2	0	1	3
Latvia	1	1	1	3
India	1	0	2	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Ireland	0	1	2	3
Serbia	0	1	2	3
Belgium	1	1	0	2
Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
Flag of I.R.Iran	1	0	1	2
Trinidad & Tobago	0	2	0	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Iceland	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Netherlands Antilles	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Sudan	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Young guns blazing in basketball, tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Young athletes made last week's headlines with 18-under cagers in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League playing in the opening week of the league and the CNMI Junior Tennis Team showing impressive performance anew in another tournament in Fiji.

The Rotary caging opened Monday night with last year's runner-up Southern Sonics stunning the defending champion CNMI Junior Nationals, 71-64, in their first meeting since the former lost to the latter in the 2007 finals.

Both teams lost key players from their rosters last year, but the Sonics found newcomers who stepped up and gave coach Jesse Tudela a good start in the 18-under caging.

Six more teams debuted in the Rotary last week with the Garapan Rollers I, the San Antonio Sixers, and Kontenders joining the Sonics in the win column.

The G-Rollers I hammered sister team the G-Rollers II, 87-42, the Sixers topped the G-Stars, 65-52, and the Kontenders beat the Suns, 48-36.

The CNMI netters returned to Saipan last week after completing their second tournament in Fiji.

Making their marks in the Oceania Plate tournament were Christian Miller and Rafael Jones, who moved into the semifinals of the Boys' Junior division.

Miller was undefeated in five games in Pool A to set up a semis meeting with Jones, who finished second in Pool B with a 4-1 record.

Miller won the all-CNMI semifinals, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, but unfortunately failed to play in the finals against Fiji's Devin Khatri, as they needed to catch a return flight to Saipan. The finals and consolation matches were set Wednesday morning and the CNMI team left Lautoka early Wednesday morning.

Jones and Miller along with Dina Jones, Mayuko Arriola, and coach Jeff Race arrived on Saipan early Thursday morning. Before the Oceania Plate tournament, the CNMI team led the North squad to a runner-up finish in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Thea Minor and Ji Hoon Heo, who are also members of the team, are still in Fiji training for separate tournaments. Minor is going to New Caledonia, while Heo is headed for Japan.

Games in the Rotary caging last week were played early evening, preventing suspension of matches due to power outage. The Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League was not as lucky as the youth league, as it continues to suffer due to a power outage.

Only three games were completed and the rest were either suspended midway through the match or cancelled even before they get started.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rangers' Kelvin Kapileo delivers a pitch.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Southern Sonics' Manuel Ajoste drives against Junior Nationals defenders during their game in the Rotary caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The G-Rollers I's Jomar Danas keeps the ball away from a G-Rollers II defender.

MARK RABAGO
The CNMI Junior Tennis Team, from left, Thea Minor, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, coach Jeff Race, Christian Miller and Rafael Jones. Not in the picture was Ji Hoon Heo.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
PTI's Kelvin Fitial loses the ball, as he is pushed by DPW/P&S Edgar Pangelinan during their game in the PTI caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Felix Sasamoto and Morito Asai show off their catch in the 4th Annual Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation Spearfishing Challenge held two weekendd ago held in waters off Apra Harbor in Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rock Steady's John Mafnas eyes a Rangers batter before delivering a pitch in Game 3 of the SML title series at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The ongoing finals series in the 208 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball are also affected by the power outage.

The Ford Rangers won Game 3, 9-3, Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-three series. Game 3 was first played, two Sundays ago, but was halted due to a power outage.

A few minutes after Game 3 ended, the Rangers and Rock Steady played Game 4. The score was 8-3, with Rock Steady leading at the top of the ninth when the power went off forcing the rescheduling of Game 4, and Game 5, if possible, on Friday.

But it rained Friday, suspending Game 4 anew. *Saipan Tribune* called organizer Tony Rogolifoi for the new schedule of the series, but he has yet to respond as of press time.

There was also power outage at the Marianas High School Gymnasium Wednesday night. But fortunately, Tomas Santamaria of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball was done with the first session of his weeklong volleyball coaching clinic.

The clinic, which will continue this week aims to develop volleyball and beach volleyball in various national federations from all over the world, except Europe, by providing courses for young players, coaches, and referees.

It is also part of the FIVB's Volleyball World Vision 2012, which envisions national federations and confederations to become the most professional organizations, each one at its one level, with modern, flexible, and efficient administration under a professional management setting.

In other events, Saipan's Felix Sasamoto and Morito Asai topped the Rudder Fish Category of the 4th Annual Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation Spearfishing Challenge after their 4.93-lb catch; Saipan Swim Club resumed its training; and Rod Hodges won Saipan Golf Association's August Ace.

Young guns blazing in basketball, tennis

Young athletes made last week's headlines with 18-under cagers in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League playing in the opening week of the league and the CNMI Junior Tennis Team. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Merriman faces tough choice on torn knee ligaments

Chargers Pro Bowl linebacker Shawne Merriman said Saturday he has two torn ligaments in his left knee and has been told by doctors that he could suffer a possible career-ending injury. 24

US hoops beat Spain for gold medal

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The United States won the gold medal in Olympic men's basketball Sunday with a 118-107 victory over Spain.

Culminating a three-year mission to end years of embarrassment, the U.S. Olympic team survived a huge challenge from Spain, winning 118-107 Sunday in the gold-medal game.

After overwhelming everyone for seven games, the Americans led by only four points with under 2 1/2 minutes to play, then proved they could handle the close game that seemed would never come in Beijing.

Their prize: the first U.S. gold medal since the 2000 Olympics.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points for the Americans, who found a much gamer Spanish team than the one they humiliated by 37 points earlier in the tournament. Kobe Bryant added 20.

RELATED NEWS
Wanjiru wins marathon in Olympic record time.
PAGE 25

In a game so devoid of defense that it felt more like an NBA All-Star game than one with a title at stake, the Americans had too much offense down the stretch. Bryant converted a clutch four-point play with 3:10 remaining, holding his finger to his lips to quiet the rowdy Spanish crowd behind the basket.

Wade added another 3-pointer that made it 111-104 with just over 2 minutes left, and only

See US on Page 26

AP

Members of the USA basketball team stand for the national anthem on the victory stand after their 118-107 win over Spain in the men's gold medal basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008.

Shell shuts out Natibu in Marianas Cup finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Centerfielder Julian Camacho blasted two homers to lead Shell Marianas to an 8-0 shutout win over Natibu in the championship match in the Pacific Trading Co.'s 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier yesterday at the Capitol Hil Ballfield.

Camacho made his first homer at the top of the fourth inning, driving home Manny Sablan and giving Shell Marianas a 3-0 lead.

Prior to Camacho's two-run homer, Natibu's defense shut out Shell Marianas in the second and third innings. Mel Tagabuel singled at the top of the first and brought Ben Mesa home to make it to the scoreboard.

Camacho, whose first at bat resulted in a fly-out, hit his second homer—an over-the-fence one to the right side of the field—bringing Mel Sakisat and Sablan home.

Natibu never made it home, as the best it could do was reached third base on a standup

See SHELL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shell Marianas members flash the No. 6 sign after ruling the 2008 Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier for the sixth straight time. Shell Marianas beat Natibu in yesterday's finals at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Tawanpiy tops Sufa golf tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Refaluwasch Golf Association member Asterio Tawanpiy won the Sufa Golf Tournament held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville Saturday.

Tawanpiy recorded a net 73 to beat 26 other participants, including fellow RGA golfer Jess Wabol, who scored a net 73.2.

Tawanpiy, who had a 12 handicap in the double-peoria tournament, shot a 40 on the front and slowed down a bit on the back with a 45 for a gross 85.

A double-peoria tournament is sort of a one-day handicap system for golf events with tournament committee selecting secret holes. Hidden holes in Saturday's tournament were Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18.

Wabol had a -12 handicap after an even par 36 performance on both nines to settle for second

See TAWANPIY on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, PILCOWA board member Jun Concillado, president Ronnie Doca, and sports coordinator Fando Muleta, met last week to discuss the inaugural inter-color basketball tournament set to tentatively kick off on Sept. 28.

New basketball league to open next month

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Inc. will be holding its Inaugural Inter-Color Basketball League next month at the Century Insurance Center basketball court.

League coordinator Fando Muleta said the league aims to promote physical fitness through basketball, and camaraderie among Filipino workers.

Muleta said they are planning to open the league on Sept. 28

The league will be holding competitions for open and 35-and-above divisions. Games will be held four times a week. There will be two games each every Tuesday and Thursday, while three matches will be played every Saturday and Sunday.

See NEW on Page 26